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Flood Threats

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THE BLEAK VIEW FROM THE TRENCHES

'Life has never been this hard'

» Families bear the brunt of economic crisis

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTERS

Editor's Note: In this series of articles that began Monday, May 9, 2011, the Saipan Tribune examines the effects of the depressed economy on the islands' remaining industry, tourism, and the wider impact it is having on the lives of island residents.



Dandan resident Anthony Magofna feels like he's falling hard—and fast.

With soaring gas prices, higher cost of utilities, and skyrocketing prices of commodities, Magofna's meager monthly earnings appear almost inconsequential compared to bills that have to be paid. His paycheck is being

spent faster than the time he worked for it.

"Life has never been this hard for me and my family," Magofna told *Saipan Tribune* at his family's apartment.

The Magofna household is going through what thousands of other families

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Head Start has large unserved population

» 133 eligible kids on wait list; federalization to impact program enrollment

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

A large number of children in the Commonwealth who are eligible for Head Start enrollment in are not being ac-

commodated, according to the latest community assessment report submitted to the Board of Education.

The report states that there are currently 113 children on the program's

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MONETH G. DEPOSA

SUPPORT OUR TROOP WEEK

Students, teachers, and education officials gather for a group photo after the proclamation ceremony yesterday in Capitol Hill. The Board of Education endorsed May 16 to 20 as "PSS Support Our Troop Week" in honor and recognition of troops to teachers, guards and reserves, JROTC instructors, and student enlistees in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Lawmakers wary over likely loss of 127 PSS teachers

» PSS says schools will be OK without non-highly qualified teachers

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

For almost three hours yesterday morning, lawmakers took turns asking Public School System about the impact on stu-

dent learning of losing at least 127 teachers and school administrators if they don't pass Praxis tests by July 31.

Some House Education Committee members, including Rep. Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan), even asked PSS if it

could consider "grandfathering" or waiving at least Praxis 1 for those who have been teaching at PSS before 2004.

Tenorio also offered to introduce a bill that would exempt highly-qualified teachers from double-dipping beyond

two years allowed by law.

In the end, PSS and Board of Education officials were able to convince the committee led by Rep. Ray Palacios (Cov-Saipan) that having Praxis 1 and 2 will help raise the teaching standards in CNMI public schools and, in turn, will

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Local

NMI is 3rd fastest among 5 US territories in spending ARRA money

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

If it's any consolation, the CNMI ranks third fastest among five U.S. territories when it comes to the percentage of spending American Recovery and Rein-

vestment Act money awarded them as of March 31, 2011.

But while the CNMI outranks Guam and American Samoa, these two territories have been awarded more ARRA money than the Commonwealth.

The CNMI ARRA Office has

blamed mainly the lengthy Buy American waiver process as the culprit for the delay in spending ARRA money.

Latest data from federal tracking agency recovery.gov shows that the CNMI has yet to spend over \$71.8 million or 59

percent of the \$120.9 million in ARRA money awarded it.

Guam, on the other hand, has yet to spend \$204 million or 72 percent of over \$285.8 million awarded it.

American Samoa has yet to spend \$157 million or 82 per-

cent of the \$192.4 million of its ARRA money.

Puerto Rico ranks first when it comes to speedy spending of ARRA money. As of March 31, Puerto Rico has yet to spend \$1.1 billion or 41 percent of almost \$2.7 billion awarded it.

The U.S. Virgin Islands, meanwhile, has yet to spend

\$166 million or 58 percent of almost \$289.3 billion in ARRA money awarded it.

If one is to include three other Pacific islands receiving ARRA money, the CNMI ranks fifth, but this is only because the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and Palau received much lower amounts of ARRA money.

Ex-convict allegedly found in possession of 'ice'

Police arrested an ex-convict who was allegedly found in possession of crystal methamphetamine or "ice" outside a residence in Koblerville on Monday.

Benjamin Lee Rios, 40, was taken to the Superior Court yesterday afternoon on charges of illegal possession of a controlled substance. Bail was set at \$5,000 cash. Preliminary hearing will be on May 18 at 9am.

Detective Sean White of the CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force stated in his report that two police officers on routine

patrol on Monday spotted a blue Toyota Echo in the parking lot of KL Market in Koblerville at 5:43pm.

White said the two officers approached the car since they were aware that a wanted person, Rios, has been operating that vehicle.

Before the officers reached the vehicle, it drove away from the parking lot. The officers followed until the vehicle stopped at the residence of Rios' mother.

White said that Rios immediately walked toward the house, but one of the officers called and

talked to him.

When Rios agreed to have his car searched, the officers allegedly found a cut-off straw with a crystalline substance and plastic pipe used for smoking "ice" on the passenger side.

White said a detective arrived at the scene and tested the substance recovered as positive for the presence of "ice."

Rios was arrested. During the booking process at the Department of Corrections, a corrections officer found baggies wrapped in an ATM receipt that allegedly contained

a crystalline substance.

On Tuesday morning, the same detective tested the substance recovered at DOC as positive for the presence of "ice."

In January 2011, Rios was sentenced to 14 days in prison for stealing a Louis Vuitton bag from a car on Dec. 12, 2009. At the time, the defendant had a pending assault and battery case.

White did not mention in the report why the police officers considered Rios a wanted person. (Ferdie de la Torre)

lights that are on named streets only," Malae told *Saipan Tribune*.

The electric power billing for most public streetlights on Saipan are charged to the Department of Public Works, according to Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Abe Utu Malae.

"On Saipan, the DPW is charged for the public street-

lights that are on named streets only," Malae told *Saipan Tribune*.

Estimated consumption is 254,000 kilowatt hours per month and includes operation and maintenance, he said.

For unnamed streets, CUC charges private residents for consumption.

"If the street is not a named street such as Beach Road, or if the streetlight is turned into a private driveway, then paying for that is the responsibility of the private customer," explained Malae.

He said CUC crews identify these private streetlights and disconnect them unless the private owner agrees to pay for them.

Streetlights are handled by CUC's power transmission and distribution division.

To lessen the energy cost for streetlights, Malae said the government is replacing old bulbs with fuel-efficient LED lamps supplied by the Department of Energy.

LEDs, which stand for light-emitting diode, consist of clusters of tiny, high-intensity bulbs and are extolled for their power efficiency and clear luminosity.

Malae said these LED lights are procured using a grant from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds given last year to the CNMI.

"LEDs have a higher quality light that is also directional—meaning it shines on the area below only rather than all over. Some residents complain about the light pollution from other kinds of streetlights," said Malae.

The CNMI government, CUC's biggest customer, is eyeing 1,200 new streetlights for the initial installation.

Crisis communication seminar cancelled

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Saipan Post 3457 has cancelled the seminar "Hi Touch Communication in a Hi-Tech Era: Crisis Communications and Media Response Training for Today's Leaders" until further notice. No new seminar schedule was provided. (PR)

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OF OVER \$180K UNPAID RENT, UTILITIES

PSS pays Fund \$50K; wants new lease terms

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Public School System finance director Richard Waldo disclosed yesterday that he made an initial \$50,000 payment to the NMI Retirement Fund last week for the system's building rent and is negotiating for a new lease.

Waldo said the amount is only a small portion of the over \$180,000 that PSS owes the Fund, which covers rent since October 2010 and power consumption for its central offices.

Fund officials disclosed last week that PSS is delinquent in its rent payment from October 2010 through April 2011. The system also failed to pay for utilities since the beginning of the fiscal year, amounting to about \$63,000.

Waldo said the initial payment was taken from federal monies.

He said PSS plans to make another payment of \$240,000 as soon as it gets its allotment from the central government. He could not provide a definite time frame for this.

Waldo said he is currently negotiating a new lease agreement with the Fund for fiscal year 2012, which begins in October.

\$50M-\$70M Tinian boardwalk investors eyeing a Saipan hotel

» Tinian mayor names honorary special economic adviser on Tinian-China matters

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

A China-based group of investors planning to build a \$50 million to \$70 million boardwalk on Tinian is now also looking at taking over the operation of at least one Saipan hotel.

Representatives from this group of investors, which has partnered with Tinian casino investor Bridge Investment Group, are currently in the CNMI to meet with government officials.

On Tinian yesterday morning, Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz said he named Jia Tie Liang as honorary special economic advisor on Tinian-China matters.

Jia accepted the appointment during a signing ceremony attended by Tinian lawmakers and other officials.

The appointment, which lasts until May 2012, will include preparing plans for different kinds of development projects on Tinian.

Jia owns China-based Sheng Jia Heng Xin Investment Co. which, together with Bridge Investment, will help build a casino and other facilities in the CNMI including a boardwalk on Tinian, a hotel on Saipan, a Tinian museum, and

He acknowledged that higher utility rate is the reason behind the increase in power bills. The Fund pays for the power consumption of the entire building, with PSS reimbursing its share of utilities.

Waldo disclosed that based on his initial discussion with the Fund, the agency wants an advance payment for the building rental, amounting to about a fourth of the yearly lease amount.

"For the new contract, they want us to pay one-fourth of the net [yearly rent]...but I don't know if PSS can make it happen. The system is a non-generating agency and depends on the local money for operation including rental payment," he said.

In last week's Fund board meeting, members expressed hesitation about negotiating a new lease contract with PSS.

PSS leases the second and third floors of the Retirement Fund Building and is billed an average of \$20,000 monthly, excluding power and water consumption. The system pays an average of \$10,000 every month for utilities.

Besides PSS, the NMI Ju-diciary is also reportedly delinquent in its loan obligation with the Fund, amounting to \$303,000 as of April. The Ju-

diciary secured the \$13.8 million loan from the Fund in order to build the Guma Hustisia in Susupe. The primary source of repayment comes from revenues generated by the Ju-diciary. The loan has a maturity date of Aug. 14, 2015.

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LAWMAKERS

From Page 1

be for the benefit of students.

Education Commissioner Rita Sablan said PSS served 127 notices of termination in April to teachers and school administrators, informing them that they have only until July 31 to remain in their current jobs if they don't pass the Praxis tests.

Sablan later told reporters that these teachers and administrators have had many years since 2004 to take the Praxis tests.

"It's just that it's coming down to that timeline," she said.

HEAD START

From Page 1

wait list. Of that number, 3 percent are children with disabilities.

The mandated enrollment of 462 children under the program represents just 17 percent of the total population of 3- and 4-year-olds in the Commonwealth, the report adds.

The report, adopted by the board at its last meeting, indicated that, with a total of 2,654 live births in the Commonwealth in 2007 and 2008, these children will be age-eligible for Head Start in the next

The education commissioner said the non-passers are about 22 percent of the total number of teachers and administrators.

PSS will be just fine without these 127 teachers and administrators, she assured.

"We're looking at our student-teacher ratio to ensure that we have teaching capacity without disrupting the learning environment of our students. So if we're going to lose 127, then our student-ratio will have to go up from 20 to 25 maybe but we'll still be okay," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

The limited resources, especially after ARRA funding expires, are also a concern not only among education of-

ficials but also lawmakers.

Sablan said there will be another Praxis test to be administered in July, but the notification on whether teachers passed or not won't be received until August or past the July 31 deadline.

But she said those who took the test in April and passed it will have their termination notices rescinded. She said the number of non-passers is now a little "less than 127."

BOE's Herman Guerrero said it's not the board's intention to get rid of employees; rather, they want to raise the standards of teaching at public schools.

"Are we just teaching our kids to be competitive only locally, or globally?" he later asked lawmakers who wanted

PSS to reconsider Praxis requirement for long-time PSS teachers.

Both sides agreed that there are teachers who could be effective in teaching students in the classroom but could be poor test takers. But educators said these individuals have had many years to prepare for Praxis.

In response to Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota) and Basa's questions whether PSS would hire replacements for the teachers and administrators it would lose, PSS said that recruitment is done throughout the year for highly-qualified individuals.

Sablan said those who pass the Praxis after July 31 could still apply with PSS under a competitive process.

The Board of Education set three requirements for teachers to be considered highly-qualified: degree, certification, and Praxis tests. This is pursuant to the No Child Left Behind Act's highly qualified personnel mandate. Beginning July 31 this year, the federal government will only allow the hiring of highly qualified personnel in all school districts.

Guerrero noted that the CNMI outperforms Guam and other U.S. territories in complying with these requirements.

Besides Sablan and Guerrero, the other education officials at the Legislature were BOE's Mary Lou Ada, Lucy Blanco, Tanya King, PSS finance director Richard Waldo, and human resource director Charlie Kenty.

HEAD START

From Page 1

wait list. Of that number, 3 percent are children with disabilities.

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The report, adopted by the board at its last meeting, indicated that, with a total of 2,654 live births in the Commonwealth in 2007 and 2008, these children will be age-eligible for Head Start in the next

school year, 2011-2012.

The village of Susupe heads the list of children on the wait list with 39, followed by Garapan with 27, San Antonio with 25, Dandan with 13, Kagman, Tanapag, and Rota each with eight, Chalan Kanoa/Oleai with three, and Tinian two.

Based on the same community assessment report, there are a total of 222 children on the program's wait list for next school year.

Head Start is a federally funded program under the auspices of PSS. It provides services to income eligible children and families. There are 10 centers

in the CNMI—seven on Saipan, two on Rota, and one on Tinian—that currently serves 462 children, of which 63 are with disabilities.

The report also disclosed that U.S. Public Law 110-229 will have an impact on Head Start enrollment because many parents whose children were born in the CNMI are nonresidents and may have to depart if their umbrella permits expire and they fail to adjust to a lawful status under federal immigration law.

The law is a relatively new immigration law that provides for a transition period in which those with valid CNMI permits are allowed to remain and work

in the CNMI until Nov. 27, 2011. During this time, these individuals are encouraged to adjust to a status under the federal Immigration and Nationality Act for which they may be able to qualify.

Barriers

According to the report, the Head Start community partnership committee has identified transportation as a barrier to effective participation in the program's services and activities. Currently, only children with special needs have bus transportation to and from school provided by PSS.

Based on the 2011 survey for the

Head Start community assessment, there are a total of 111 children enrolled in a private pre-school program who are age-eligible for the Head Start program of PSS as of March 2011.

Their parents gave the following reasons as factors for enrolling them in private program: close to home, close to work, other children were cared for by the same provider since birth, and the provider/program follows a Christian curriculum.

They also cited the half-day session implemented in the Head Start program as a factor for choosing the private provider.

LIFE

From Page 1

across the Commonwealth are experiencing due to a depressed economy that stubbornly refuses to ease up. These economic woes are prompting families to cut back on regular expenses, including essentials. Self-imposed cost-saving measures have become obligatory too. And pawnshops have become a last-resort means for cash emergencies.

Magofna, a gas attendant at a Chalan Kiya station, constantly juggles house rent, utilities, gas, food and groceries, as well as babysitting fees to fit their inadequate budget as he and his wife Cristina go to work to support their 2-year-old and 3-month-old daughters.

All these expenditures, Magofna said, are essential to their daily subsistence. But when push comes to shove—a frequent occurrence these days—the doting father of two girls said they are forced to prioritize, with their daughters' needs always on top of the list.

"We would pay only half or sometimes even delay payments for other bills. We have no other choice," he said.

The greater part of the Magofna household's income is spent on baby supplies such as diapers and milk and to gas up their car, a Honda, so he and his wife could go to work.

The last few months have been particularly challenging, however. Anthony's wife, after giving birth, was laid off from the tour agency where she had worked for about seven years, due to the steady decline in tourist arrivals. This came on top of seeing a dramatic cut in his work hours, from 64 hours down to only 32 a month.

"It was a rough time for us," he said candidly. "We didn't know how to make ends meet."

Anthony, a minimum wage earner, disclosed how they would ask help from their families for food or gas money. "But it was hard for them to extend help either," said Anthony, who has five siblings, two of whom are still young and being supported by his mother. His wife's parents, on the other hand, are already caring for another grandchild.

Fortunately for the Magofnas, Cristi-

na landed a full-time job in another tour agency where she will be under probation for the next three months. "But our finances are still running tight," she said as she lulled her youngest to sleep.

Nonetheless, it was a welcome source of income for a family of four, said Anthony. "With my take-home pay, I can only pay for our phone bill and gas. Good thing Cristina isn't a stay-home mom and wife," he added, teasing his wife.

Cost-cutting measures

Even with Cristina's slightly-higher-than-minimum-wage income, the Magofnas' financial struggle is far from over.

"We do what we can to cut expenses," said Anthony, who narrated how he and Cristina carpool to work, bring home-cooked lunch to the office, refrain from dining out or buying new stuff for themselves and their children, unless essential.

In fact, instead of buying their youngest daughter new clothes, they make her use her elder sister's hand-me-downs. "We resolve to remove unnecessary spending as much as possible," he said.

In the past, Anthony said they usually drive to Santa Lourdes as a family to light candles and pray. But even this pious diversion had to be junked as gas prices have drastically increased several times this year.

Even Anthony's betel nut chewing had been negatively affected by the crisis. "I used to buy Doral cigarettes but now, I buy the cheapest, which is Bronco. It costs about \$2.95."

Since electric bills are now over the top, Anthony said they also limit their power consumption in terms of air-conditioner and television use.

Anthony and Cristina also make use of whatever assistance programs are available from the government, such as the Women, Infants, and Children program of the Department of Public Health.

"WIC is a big help since it takes care of some of the items on our grocery list like eggs, bread, peanut butter, and juice," said Cristina.

Anthony added, "The food stamps would help but we're only waitlisted

in that program." He said they also applied for child care benefits so that their eldest daughter can attend a decent school next school year.

"Even after all these measures, it's still hard to save for the rainy days," he said.

What lies ahead

Despite hard times, Anthony said he still feels lucky that he has a job that gives him an income somehow. "Although when the bills start to come in, I start feeling a little less lucky," he managed a smile.

As he thinks about his family's future, Anthony thinks about applying for a better-paying job someday.

"But right now, I'm not looking for one. I would like to finish my studies and receive my diploma so I'll have better chances in the job market," said the Adult Basic Education student at the Northern Marianas College.

According to Anthony, he is also taking classes at the Northern Marianas Trades Institute. Sadly, though, the \$25 fee that the school is asking him to pay just can't be squeezed into their already tight budget.

"I think it would be good if minimum wage is increased since prices have gone up. It will be better if prices of goods will go down at the same time," he said.

Still, Anthony remains positive and hopeful. "Not just for myself but more importantly, it's for my family."

Single on Saipan

It's not only those with families that are suffering.

"Surviving in this tough economy even when you're unmarried and don't have kids is still challenging," Michelle Caleon told *Saipan Tribune* at the salon where she works as a hairstylist and all-around beautician.

Having less than 80 hours of work and getting paid the minimum wage don't exactly help, she added.

"Because times are tough, my monthly expenses are fairly limited to just house rent, utilities, and food, which account for the largest part of my budget. This is by far the most challenging period in my 11-year stay on Saipan," said Caleon.

As the going gets tough, Caleon said the tough "tightens the belt" and "stretches the dollar" in all ways imaginable.

"I rarely go out with my friends nowadays," said Caleon. "After work, I go straight to my apartment."

Lucky for Caleon, she lives in downtown Garapan where she is in proximity to most amenities and services. "I don't have to worry about gas prices going up because I don't have a car," she added.

Caleon said the tips she gets from her regular customers at the salon now play a big part in augmenting her meager earnings. "I use it to pay for my badminton membership fee or for my cab ride going to the [badminton] court to sweat it out."

Even then, the deepening economic crisis in the Commonwealth has also affected the salon due to some customers that have left the islands.

"That means less tips for us. I was forced to cut back on my hobbies. Now, I do away with bowling and I hardly ever play badminton. I seldom get to watch movies either," she explained.

Aside from leisure pursuits, Caleon's cost-cutting measures also involve limited use of her air-conditioner and avoiding unnecessary spending.

Going back to the Philippines isn't exactly an option either. "It would be great if I find better opportunities elsewhere," she added.

For now, Caleon wants to take on a second job to make ends meet. "At the end of the day, I'd like to think that I'm still blessed. I still got something to budget and spend, at the very least."

Last resort

For some people, pawnshops have become a last resort just to survive. Many of those affected by the economic downturn are forced to bring their valuables to pawnshops just so they could obtain money for emergencies or to tide them over until the next paycheck.

Shirley Vinarao, 55, a houseworker, treasures a necklace that she bought with her wages many years ago when the economy was still doing good. She was recently forced to bring it to a pawnshop so she could raise money for a son who had been shot.

Vinarao pawned her necklace on March 26, 2011, but has been unable to get it back as she doesn't have enough money yet. To make sure she will still be able to redeem it, she pays the \$14 monthly interest.

Working on Saipan since 1994, the houseworker was actually already planning to go back home for good. But due to the shooting of her son, she needs to continue working on the island to get her jewelry back and pay her other debts.

Like Vinarao, JB also finds pawnshops helpful whenever he is in need of immediate cash. He brought his laptop to a pawnshop over the weekend and got \$228 for it.

JB used to earn \$47,000 annually. But when he lost his job a few months ago, the job of earning money for the family fell on his wife. They have four children, two of them in the U.S. mainland.

"We have to sacrifice our laptop until payday," he said, admitting that he has become a regular customer of the pawnshop, especially whenever they run out of cash.

The perception, however, that pawnshops are doing good business because of the bad economy is wrong, at least according to many pawnshops on island.

Ivy Mae V. Gora, appraiser of Villaroyal Pawnshop and Jewelry Store, told *Saipan Tribune* that since people now could not afford to buy jewelry, computers, and other appliances, they have nothing to bring to pawnshops.

Gora also noted the shrinking population in the CNMI as a major factor in the decline of their sales. With many residents and alien workers leaving the islands, the number of pawnshop customers have significantly decreased, said Gora, who works at one of three Villaroyal branches on Saipan. The pawnshop has another branch on Rota.

In 2007, Gora said, their sales were fine, but beginning 2009 when the federalization law took effect and many jobless alien workers began leaving the Commonwealth, their sales have been on a continuous decline.

Gora said that people's limited budgets are preventing families from buying jewelry and the "latest items" (computers, laptops, appliances), which are what pawnshops usually accept. *(With Ferdie de la Torre)*

DPW official in extortion case signs plea agreement

A Department of Public Works building code inspector who is facing an extortion charge in federal court has entered a plea agreement with the U.S. government.

Thomas Sablan Salas, though his counsel, and assistant U.S. attorney Eric O'Malley notified the U.S. District Court for the

NMI on Tuesday about the plea agreement.

Both lawyers asked the court to vacate Salas' jury trial, which is set to begin on May 16, 2011, and to instead set a change of plea hearing on May 16, 2011.

The indictment charged Salas with one count of extortion under color of official right.

According to the indictment, Salas used his position with the DPW to demand bribes from a businessman in exchange for

not imposing building code violation fines.

Federal Bureau of Investigation agents arrested Salas on Sept. 7, 2010, after he allegedly extorted a total of \$200 cash from a printing

press owner.

The U.S. government claimed to have a video footage when the printing press owner handed the bribe money to the DPW official. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

Only 2 sign up for 2011 LibDay Queen

» Deadline extended anew to May 13

The economic crisis in the CNMI is a major factor why fewer people are cautious to sign up for this year's Liberation Queen pageant, according to Saipan mayor's executive secretary Vinyacia Seman.

Seman, who also chairs the 2011 Liberation Queen Committee, disclosed that they only have two candidates even after extending the deadline to May 2.

Those she had approached as potential queens have told her that the challenging times do not motivate them to sell raffle tickets.

"I understand why people are hesitant. I think there is also a lot of stress many families are going through right now. There are girls who are interested but their parents cannot commit to this," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Seman said the deadline has been extended once again, this time up to Friday, May 13.

If they do not get enough candidates, Seman said the annual Liberation Day festivities will be affected as proceeds of the Liberation Queen sales help pay for the celebration costs. (*Clarissa V. David*)

3rd diabetes forum set on Rota

The Commonwealth Diabetes Coalition Diabetes Prevention and Control Program of the Department of Public Health, and the Ayuda Network will be educating residents of Sinapalo and Songsong villages about diabetes health when they bring the continuation of a six-part series of community forums next week to Rota.

The first forum was held at Laolao Bay Golf and Resort on Nov. 13, targeting residents of As Teo, Papago, I Denni, and Kagman villages.

The second forum, held at the Saipan Southern High School cafeteria on March 5, targeted residents of San Antonio, Afetnas, As Gonno, Dandan, Koblerville, As Lito, Fina Sisu, As Perdido, San Vicente, and Tuturam.

For more information, call Ayuda Network at (670) 234-7469. (*Clarissa V. David*)

Seman said the forum will

The federal court has granted the request of a jobless man for an investigator that will help him mount a defense against charges of fraudulently obtaining a CNMI driver's license.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Consuelo B. Marshall granted Wei Lin's request for a court-appointed investigator and authorized up to \$1,500 for this purpose.

Lin's counsel, Joseph Norita

Camacho, told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that his client is thankful for the court's order.

"Now, we can begin to get to the bottom of this DWC—Driving while Chinese," Camacho said.

Camacho described the case as an "unfortunate example" of racial profiling where a simple traffic stop "evolved into a federal immigration deportation situation."

Camacho pointed out that the local police did not even issue Lin a traffic citation, yet the Department of Homeland Security is now prosecuting his client.

In Lin's request for a court-appointed investigator, Camacho said his client is unable to post bail and remains in custody and that the help of an investigator is needed in order to look into other avenues of investigation that may have been omitted

Court OKs investigator for suspect in fraudulent driver's license case

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"Now, we can begin to get to the bottom of this DWC—Driving while Chinese," Camacho said.

Camacho described the case as an "unfortunate example" of racial profiling where a simple traffic stop "evolved into a federal immigration deportation situation."

Camacho pointed out that the local police did not even issue Lin a traffic citation, yet the Department of Homeland Security is now prosecuting his client.

The indictment accuses Lin of paying a third-party to obtain a driver's license without meeting legal requirements. Lin also allegedly misrepresented to the Bureau of Motor Vehicles that he had lost his previous driver's license, when he knew that his license had been seized by a police officer. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

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Low parental turnout plagues PTSA meetings, PSS summits

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Top education officials are lamenting the lack of parental involvement in school activities and events, saying this could only mean that many parents are not interested in their children's educational progress.

Board of Education chair Marylou S. Ada and Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan, who attended Wednesday's PTSA summit for Saipan at Marianas High School, emphasized the vital role parents play in achieving the long-desired success of students.

The Public School System had expected all parents of

over 10,000 students in public schools on Saipan to show up at Wednesday's summit but only over a hundred turned up, according to Jackie Quitugua, associate commissioner for instruction and curriculum.

This comes on the heels of a mega-PTSA meeting hosted by MHS principal Craig Garrison on Saturday, which

also yielded only a handful of parents, a far cry from the 1,300 students enrolled in the oldest public high school in the CNMI.

Ada emphasized that in order to make a successful child, parents have to actively participate.

"The more you are involved, the more you are aware of

what's going on, and the more you are part of the process in making changes for the betterment and quality of education. If you don't come to these meetings, basically you're telling us you are not really interested and you're letting us—PSS and BOE—do all the work. But it takes three to really make it work: parents,

students, and PSS," said Ada, adding that education starts at home.

Sablan said PSS tries its best to reach out to all parents. Each year, she said, two general summits are held. She also created a PTSA council that directly reports to her office.

"Today's forum is one type of engaging parents to be involved in education. This is really an opportunity for them to be informed of what programs we offer for them to help them guide or mentor their kids. There are different levels of parental involvement," said the commissioner.

Juan Sablan, president of the PTSA Council, said that Wednesday's summit was only one of many events where parents have had "dissatisfying turnouts."

Ada pointed out, though, that parental indifference do not happen in all schools.

"Every school is different. MHS maybe has a low turnout but when you go to other schools like Gregorio T. Camacho, Saipan Southern High, Garapan Elementary, and Oleai Elementary, they have a very high turnout. So it really depends on the school and how parents view their involvement," Ada told *Saipan Tribune*.

New bill seeks to divide ETC funds equally among schools

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Even before Gov. Benigno R. Fitial could approve or disapprove a bill suspending the educational tax credit program during periods of austerity, another bill has been introduced amending the ETC program law.

This time, the proposal is to equally distribute ETC funds among all public and private schools, depending on their student population.

Rep. Fred Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) said yesterday that only 25 percent of all ETC funds go to public schools despite having a lot more students

than private schools, which get some 75 percent of the funds.

"I do not have anything against private schools but we just want to even out the distribution of ETC funds. The distribution will be based on student population, and it will be the commissioner of education to decide on the distribution," Deleon Guerrero said in an interview.

Deleon Guerrero said his House Bill 17-188 could be taken up by either or both the Committees on Education and Ways and Means.

Under HB 17-188, all donations made under the ETC program shall be received by the

education commissioner or his designee, and shall be deposited into an education tax credit account that the Finance secretary will create.

Deleon Guerrero introduced the bill days after the House passed a Senate bill temporarily suspending the ETC program despite strong opposition from public and private schools, parents, and students.

**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works**
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW11-IFB-011

SUGAR DOCK DREDGING IN SUSUPE

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the Sugar Dock Dredging in Susupe, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project package will be available on or after **May 12, 2011** at DPW Technical Services Division 1353 Mednilla Avenue Capitol Hill. A non-refundable payment of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at DPW Technical Services Division.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. Preference is available to US Citizen as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118. Prospective bidders claiming for US Citizen preference are required to submit *PC&S Form 100 (Revised 12/20/07)* with their sealed bids.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on **May 31, 2011**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Division of Fish & Wildlife Conference Room. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **June 7, 2011** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Acting Director of Technical Services Division, DPW 1353 Mednilla Avenue Capitol Hill, Saipan, or fax to (670) 234-3547** no later than 4:30 p.m.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that the full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Acting Director of Technical Services Division, 1353 Mednilla Avenue-Capitol Hill, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547**.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who have obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgement of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/38 no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked "DPW11-IFB-011". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time **June 10, 2011**. Bidders located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, **June 10, 2011**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **June 10, 2011**, and must be received no later than **June 22, 2011**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, **June 27, 2011**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m. local time, on **June 15, 2011**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **A surety company shall hold the Certificate of Authority (COA) from the U.S. Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General and must accompany the bid.** Bid security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with NMIAIC §70-30.3-301 of the Procurement Regulations. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00. The surety company providing the Performance and Payment bonds must hold a Certificate of Authority from the U.S. Department of Treasury as an acceptable surety and must be authorized to conduct business in the CNMI. In addition, the contractor will be required to deliver a certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments or other bond obligations) exceeded the penal amount of each bond.

Performance time for completion of this project is Thirty (30) Calendar days upon issuance of an official written Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) per calendar day for delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ MARTIN C. SABLAN
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

/s/ Dr. IGNACIO T. DELA CRUZ, DVM
Secretary, Department of Lands and natural Resources

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/s/ RAMON C. MAFNAS
ACTING COMMISSIONER, DEPT. OF PUBLIC SAFETY

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

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Division of Public Health**

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WIC
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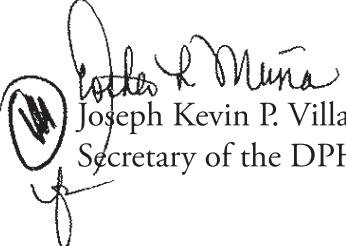
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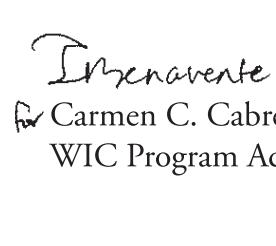
The CNMI WIC (Women, Infants and Children) Program has extended the deadline for submission of applications for Tinian Vendors to May 20, 2011. Applications may be picked up at the CNMI WIC Administrative Building located in Navy Hill, Saipan, Building No. N-25 or may be downloaded online by visiting our website at www.cnmiwic.org. The Vendor Selection Criteria is attached to the application and may also be viewed on the website.

Applications must be submitted to the CNMI WIC Program office no later than 4:00 p.m., May 20, 2011. Prospective applicants are encouraged to carefully read through the information provided to ensure minimum qualifications and requirements are met.

Inquiries and technical questions may be directed to the Vendor Management Coordinator, Fabian M. Ulloa at (670) 664-4067, by email at fabianu@cnmiwic.org or by facsimile at (670) 664-4069.

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Joseph Kevin P. Villagomez
Secretary of the DPH


Carmen C. Cabrera
WIC Program Administrator

FRUIT BAT POACHING CASE

Prosecution rests; defense did not call any witness

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The prosecution rested its case yesterday in the ongoing jury trial in federal court of retired police lieutenant Adrian Mendiola over the alleged 2008 poaching incidents of Mariana fruit bats on Rota.

Defense counsel Ramon Quichocho did not call any witness. He moved for judgment of acquittal, but U.S. District Court for the NMI visiting judge John Houston denied the motion.

Jury instructions and closing arguments by opposing counsels are expected to begin when trial resumes today, Thursday, at 8am.

The prosecution rested its case after the testimony of George Phocas, resident-in-charge of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services. When *Saipan Tribune* left the courtroom yesterday afternoon, Phocas was still on the witness stand.

Other U.S. government witnesses were morphologist Barry

Baker, veterinarian/pathologist Dr. Tabitha Viner, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services special agent Kevin Seiler.

Baker and Viner, both based in Oregon, testified via videoteleconference.

Dr. Viner replaced the original "cause of death" expert that examined the eight fruit bats that were submitted to the National Forensics Laboratory in Oregon.

Viner said her examination showed that the bats were killed

with gunshots.

Seiler testified that he and three other special agents conducted the search at Mendiola's apartment on Rota on Dec. 19, 2008. Seiler said they found a bag that contained frozen fruit bats at the bottom of a freezer. He said he saw at least three frozen fruit bats inside the bag.

The frozen fruit bats, Seiler said, were eventually shipped to the National Forensics Laboratory in Oregon.

On Monday, Judge Houston

granted the motion by assistant U.S. attorney Kirk Schuler to dismiss without prejudice the case against Mendiola's co-defendants David Santos and Albert Taitano. Dismissal without prejudice means the U.S. government may re-file the case in the future.

The case arose from incidents in 2008 when two of the remaining breeding colonies of the Mariana fruit bats on Rota were decimated by hunters using 12-gauge and .410 shotguns.

Crews search for 6 missing from Tarawa

HONOLULU—A Coast Guard search and rescue crew from Air Station Barbers Point has joined the search for six young people missing in an outrigger canoe in the Pacific Ocean Tuesday.

Aboard the canoe were two men, age 19, four girls ages 8, 9, 12, and 14. The canoe was collecting palm leaves for roofing off the west coast of Tarawa.

They were last seen at 8pm, Thursday, Hawaii Standard

Time. The canoe was spotted adrift and swamped by local fisherman Saturday. The canoe was also towing a 7-foot aluminum skiff, which was no longer attached to the swamped canoe.

The New Zealand Rescue Coordination Center personnel reported the vessels were believed to have drifted out of a lagoon and into the open sea.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration of the Republic of Kiribati re-

quested U.S. Coast Guard assistance Monday at approximately 8pm.

The Coast Guard HC-130 Hercules rescue crew arrived on scene approximately 2:30pm Tuesday.

A vessel from Tarawa has been designated as the surface recovery asset. Local fishermen have also been actively engaged in search efforts. The crew has been missing for approximately five days.

(USCG)



FIRST COMMUNION

Jim Michael Ham, center, receives his first Holy Communion at Kristo Rai Church on May 8, 2011. Matt Moran, left, and Arvin Dayao, right, congratulate Jim Michael after the ceremony.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONFIRMATION

Jimaela Ham, center, poses with friends after their Confirmation rites at the Kristo Rai Church on May 7, 2011.



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

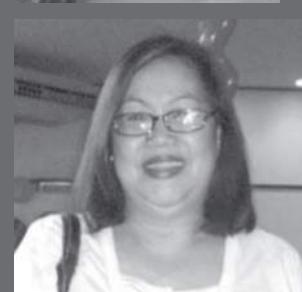
Happy birthday greetings go out to Rita Mae Santos, who is celebrating her birthday today, May 12! May this year bring with it all the success and fulfillment your heart desires. With much love, your family and friends.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Belated happy birthday greetings to Susan Dela Cruz! May today be filled with sunshine and smiles, laughter, and love. We love you! Greetings come from Ben and the kids.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy birthday to "Mama Flor"! May you have many more birthdays to come. We love you and God bless. Greetings come from Queen Anne, Daphne, Keeno, and Louis.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Belated happy birthday to Tyrone F. Mafnas, who celebrated his special day on May 10! We miss you! Love always, your family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

PSS celebrates Support Our Troops Week

» Education commissioner newest member of ESGR; 47 soldiers honored

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Board of Education endorsed yesterday the week of May 16-20 as the Public School System "Support Our Troops Week" to recognize the unwavering commitment of the system's troops-to-teachers, guards and reserves, JROTC instructors, and the student enlistees in the U.S. Armed Forces.

In a ceremony at the board's conference room, Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan honored the 47 employees under the PSS troops-to-teacher program and cited the occasion

as historic for public schools.

PSS created the program in 2006 to help recruit teachers and relieve teacher shortages, especially in math and science, while helping servicemembers make the transition to a second career in teaching. Under the program, servicemembers are given the opportunity to teach while they work on their degrees to become highly qualified classroom teachers.

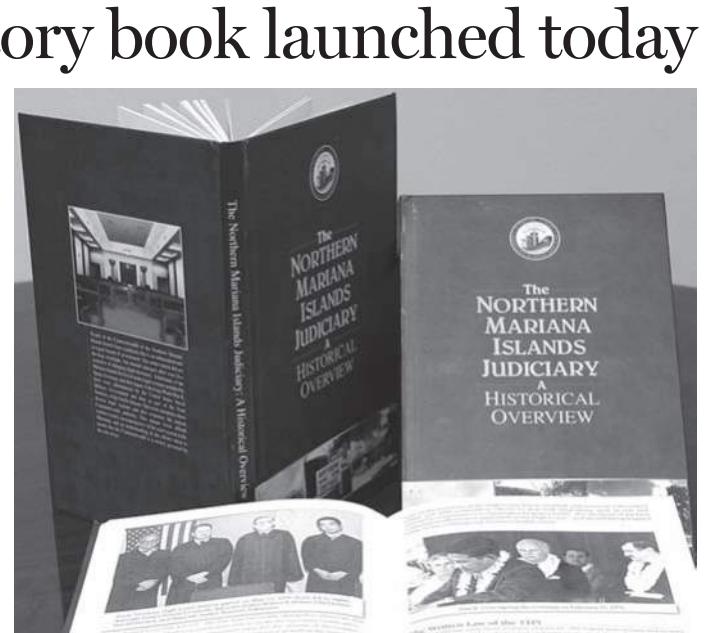
Since school year 2007, exit surveys in high schools show that about 20 to 30 percent of seniors plan to enter the U.S. Armed Forces.

Yesterday, Employer Support

for the Guards and Reserve volunteer Ed Salas disclosed that Dr. Rita A. Sablan is the newest member of ESGR in the CNMI and Guam and is also among the recipients of the organization's patriotic award. Others who were recognized included Martha Kintol, Peter Mendiola, and Kinai Salas.

Salas also lauded the PSS for making it to the semifinals of the national U.S. Secretary of Defense Freedom Award for 2011. Salas said there were a total of 138 semifinalists from over 4,000 nominees, of which only 15 will be selected for the honor.

Schools have lined up a slew of activities to be spearheaded by the Youth Advisory Panel for the weeklong celebration.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Northern Mariana Islands Judiciary: A Historical Overview will be launched today, May 12, at 11am in the Supreme Court courtroom.

and with grant funding assistance provided by the Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities. Contributing authors include Arin Greenwood, Dirk H.R. Spennemann, Dirk Anthony Ballendorf, Dan MacMeekin, former Judge Timothy H. Bellas, retired Chief Justice Jose S. Dela Cruz, Mia Giacozzetti, and Steven Gardiner.

Winners' presentations

This year's Law Week events began with the first Law Week Essay and Poster Contest. Students in grades 7 and 8 from public and private schools were invited to write an essay on this year's theme: *The Legacy*

of John Adams, from Boston to Guantanamo. Students in grades 5 and 6 were invited to create a poster that celebrates this year's theme. Winners of the poster and essay competitions will be presented with their awards today, May 12, at 11am in the Supreme Court courtroom. Cash and other prizes will be awarded to the winners. Along with the Judiciary, the contest is being co-sponsored by the Judicial Council, the Northern Marianas Judiciary Historical Society, the CNMI Bar Association, and the Commissioner of the Public School System. The Judiciary plans to make this contest an annual event. (CNMI Judiciary)

FHB presents check for 100M yen to Japan Red Cross

HATGATNA, Guam—First Hawaiian Bank chair and CEO Don Horner recently traveled to Japan to present a check for one hundred million yen (\$1,176,000) to the Japanese Red Cross Society in support of the relief efforts to help the survivors of the devastating earthquake and tsunami.

In attendance at the ceremony were Nobuhiko Higashikuni, the nephew of His Majesty The Emperor; Yoshiharu Otsuka of the Japanese Red Cross; and Ed Hawkins, president of the Japan-American Society of Hawaii.

First Hawaiian established the "Japan-Hawaii Relief Fund" with an initial \$100,000 to assist survivors. Contributions were collected at all 63 of the bank's branches in Hawaii, Guam, and CNMI. Donations as small as \$1 were deposited into the bank's fund.

"The generosity of the local community and our customers has been tremendous," Horner said. "The victims within the region are making steady progress and their attitude and efforts are an inspiration. However, there is much work to be done and our prayers, encouragement, and donation were much appreciated."

One hundred percent of the monies raised was given to the Japanese Red Cross Society, who is the primary relief organization for the victims. In all, several thousand customers contributed to the Japan-Hawaii Relief Fund, including \$105,000 from the Friends of Hawaii Charities, \$25,000 from Tanaka's of Tokyo, \$5,000 from Maui Divers and an additional \$5,000 from Carole Kai Charities, among other donations.

House approves hiring of 2 judiciary employees

The House of Representatives approved Wednesday the hiring of two employees for the Judiciary: a law clerk and a deputy clerk III.

Rep. Ramon Basa's (Cov-Saipan) House Joint Resolution 17-34 now goes to the Senate for approval.

Legislative approval is required for agencies' hiring of employees deemed as critical



First Hawaiian Bank chair and CEO Don Horner, left, presents a check in the amount of 100 million yen to assist earthquake and tsunami disaster relief efforts to Japanese Red Cross Society vice president Yoshiharu Otsuka at the Red Cross headquarters in Tokyo, Japan.

Acting chief justice Alejandro Castro certified on March 4 that a law clerk and a deputy clerk III are "very critical" to the delivery of essential services, and asked the Legislature to approve the hiring for the two positions.

These posts have been vacant

since Sept. 25, 2010 and Feb. 18, 2011, respectively.

At the same time, Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan) made an impromptu privilege speech during the session, reiterating his call on the Office of the Attorney General to take action on Moylan's Insurance's alleged continued failure to issue death benefits to four deceased retirees who were enrolled in the

First Hawaiian Bank is Hawaii's oldest and largest bank with over \$15 billion in total assets and 63 branches throughout Hawaii, Guam, and the CNMI. It is the largest corporate contributor to charity in Hawaii with over \$2.5 million donated to over 400 local agencies in 2010. (FHB)

CNMI government's life insurance program.

Torres said it's been almost two years since the OAG and the Department of Commerce have been made aware of the issue.

"The AG and Commerce should now take action or revoke Moylan's Insurance license until they pay the benefits to the deceased retirees' families," he said. (Haidee V. Eugenio)

Hyatt recognizes employees for 10-year service

Hyatt Regency Saipan has recognized five associates who have been with the company for 10 years. The hotel presented each employee with a plaque of appreciation and gift certificates to commemorate

their decade of loyalty and dedication.

"These five employees who have been with us for 10 years have displayed authentic hospitality and dedication both to the company and most es-

specially to our guests. Hyatt believes that our associates are one of the greatest keys to our success and we are happy to keep such employees as these," said general manager Nick Nishikawa. (Hyatt)

From left, Cristy Igisomar, guest services officer-communication center; Marites Olores, spa therapist; Lucy Aldan, materials manager; Edmundo Manudoc, serviceman; and Vicente Sechico, supervisor-engineering.



Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

May 12, 1999

NMC to offer food safety seminar

A 16-hour training on food safety to be conducted by an instructor coming from Washington will help local food establishments earn their certifications. The two-day intensive training is geared to benefit restaurant owners and school cafeteria personnel from the three islands to become certified food safety trainers as required by the CNMI government. The seminar will be held in the CNMI this July under the auspices of the Family and Consumer Sciences Program of the Northern Marianas College and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. According to Kathy Kohl, this is a serious workshop where participants will need to study the references provided during the training. Likewise, they should pass the national examination for food safety certification, which will be conducted right after the workshop before earning the title.

HANMI, Chamber press for public hearing on wage act

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce and the Hotel Association of Northern Mariana Islands have asked Department of Labor and Immigration Secretary Mark Zachares to immediately order a public hearing in connection with the Resident Workers Fair Compensation Act. David Wiseman, chair of the Chamber's government relations committee and legal counsel of HANMI has sent a letter to Zachares telling him of the importance of holding a public hearing to discuss the proposed amendments. Amid calls by the Chamber to hold a public hearing on the controversial Resident Worker's Fair Compensation Act, Senate President Paul Manglona and House Speaker Diego T. Benavente have agreed to support the businessmen's proposal.

May 12, 2000

BOE still opposes Tatachug projects

The State Board of Education has deferred a motion calling for a legal action against Rota Mayor Benjamin Manglona should he insist on carrying out construction of educational facilities at Tatachug, an area far from where two of the island's high schools are located. Two BOE members expressed disappointment over yesterday's majority vote, worried that BOE may face legal sanctions following reports that Mr. Manglona may take the board to court if it refuses to take on responsibilities of running the proposed Tatachug facilities.

THC forges partnership with OSHA

Frank Strasheim, OSHA regional administrator, met recently with top executives of Tan Holdings Corp. to review the company's application for participation under the Excellence 2000, a safety partnership program offered by the federal official to SGMA members. Tan Holdings, according to Strasheim, was the first partnership to be reviewed under the program. He said this is a significant step in light of what he has seen and heard about the company's safety program and improvements that have made a positive impact on THC's operations. Ron Biggers, head of THC's Office of Health and Safety Management, said Excellence 2000 provides employers like Tan Holdings an opportunity to establish a model workplace for safety and health.

May 12, 2004

Fund, PSS oppose proposed board reform act

At least two boards—the NMI Retirement Fund Board of Trustees and the Board of Education—are opposing the bill that aims to convert boards into mere advisory bodies, vests management and operations authority solely on executives, and makes the executive position an appointive position by the governor. "We will not support it. We'll object to that bill," said Fund board chair Joseph C. Reyes in a recent board meeting. Fund administrator Karl T. Reyes said reducing the board into an advisory body would be difficult for the Fund since it deals with huge financial transactions.

Student survey: NMC hiring process lacks a board policy

Northern Marianas College students have acknowledged that the college currently lacks a board policy on hiring personnel. In a survey released this week by NMC Current Issues students, they said that although there is a law—Public Law 4-34 authorizing the board to hire personnel, the current hiring system at the college is operating without a board policy that transfers such authority to the Director of Human Resources.

St. Michael's Medical Response is newest MMAC major sponsor

St. Michael's Medical Response has donated \$1,000 to the 2011 Marianas March Against Cancer, becoming a new major sponsor.

"The 2011 MMAC committee is extremely excited to receive St. Michael's donation and support this year! Their donation will go a long way in supporting this worthy cause. We'd like to thank the staff and management of St. Michael's for their support of the MMAC," said 2011 public relations committee chair Christopher A. Concepcion.

The Marianas March Against Cancer is the largest cancer fundraising event in the Northern Mariana Islands. It is the signature fundraising event of the Commonwealth Cancer Association, a volunteer-led non-profit organization that ensures all funds raised are spent locally on cancer patient assistance, cancer awareness programs and other cancer related services.

"We are inviting the entire

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Mt Carmel, MHS class reunion

1976 graduates of Mt. Carmel School and Marianas High School will have their 35th class reunion on May 14, 2011, starting at 5pm at the Pacific Islands Club. For more details contact Nenita San Nicholas at 483-5559 or Pres Dela Cruz at 288-2654. (PR)

Free choral, band concert at AMP

The Friends of the Arts will be producing a special band and choral concert on Sunday, May 15, from 4pm to 6pm, at the American Memorial Park Amphitheater. There will be no charge for attending and enjoying the concert. It is being sponsored by several businesses in the community.

The concert, *From Sea to Shining Sea*, will have an Americana them with a variety of songs from American history and music culture performed by Saipan Pacific Winds Concert Band, co-directed by Will DeWitt and Christina A. Nieras; People in the Park (a choral group) directed by Ruthi Fruit; MHS Chorale, directed by Ruthi Fruit; KHS Chorus, directed by Colleen O'Laughlin; The Rocketeers (a show choir), directed by Harold Easton; and Vocal Explosion (a show choir), directed by Harold Easton, (PR)

Rota beach site red-flagged

The Division of Environment Quality has red-flagged the Mobil storm drainage and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of this location for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified. DEQ said that samples collected from this site had excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. Water samples were taken from 12 locations on Rota this week. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. (DEQ)

Noni juice workshop at UOG May 14

The University of Guam's Cooperative Extension Service will host a noni juice workshop from 9am to noon on May 14 at the UOG Agriculture and Life Sciences building, room 127. The workshop will cover noni plant propagation and making fresh noni juice at home. Fifty slots are available. Register by calling 735-2062/2029 by May 12. A \$5 registration fee covering materials and noni juice sampling will be collected on the workshop day. (PR)

HUD awards \$71,600 in homeless assistance

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has awarded \$71,600 in federal financial assistance to the Guam Housing and Urban Renewal Authority. The grant will be used to provide assistance to the homeless on Guam. These funds were awarded through HUD's Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Program, which helps provide supportive services and transitional and permanent housing for the homeless.

"The funding will go toward providing housing assistance to our island's homeless," said Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo. "This competitive grant will assist the Government of Guam in providing affordable housing to those most in need on Guam." (PR)

community to join us for a fun night of fundraising all in the name of cancer. There will be games, great food, live entertainment, and other events going on throughout the night. Luminaries and Delta raffle tickets will be sold for only \$5 each. Contact 2011 MMAC luminary committee chair Catherine Attao-Toves at 285-1828 or email attao20@yahoo.com for more information," said Concepcion.

"We will be holding the annual cancer survivor dinner at 6pm. Anyone who has battled cancer or is currently battling cancer is invited to attend the survivor dinner held in their honor. Please contact 2011 survivor committee chair Nora Sablan at 235-0994 or email norasablan@gmail.com for more information," he added.

The 2011 Marianas March Against Cancer will be held on May 13-14 from 5:30pm to 6am at the Hopwood Junior High School field in Chalan Piao. (PR)

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Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

| | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST, | Civil Action No. 06-0554-CV |
| Plaintiff, | NOTICE OF SALE |
| vs. | |
| BONABE H. MARATITA and EMILIA E. MARATITA, | |
| Defendants. | |

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of a judgment made and entered in the above titled action on the 19th day of November, 2007, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due Plaintiff in the above titled action from Defendants, as prescribed in the judgment, the undersigned counsel will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the **19th day of May, 2011 at 10 a.m.**, at the Marianas Public Land Trust Conference Room, Capitol Hill, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit:

Lot 345 R 64, containing an area of 1,083 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 345 R 03 dated December 19, 1983.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

- Rights and duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
 - withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
 - To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
 - To reject any and all bids.
- Bids.** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749.
- Deposit and Payment.** A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or money order. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to MPLT.
- Change of Terms.** Auctioneer and MPLT reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct an enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
- Inspection and No Warranty.** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 16th day of March, 2011.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

Robert Tenorio Torres
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Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

| | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST, | Civil Action No. 02-0397-CV |
| Plaintiff, | FOURTH AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE |
| vs. | |
| DONALD T. FLORES and SHIRLINA DLG. FLORES, | |
| Defendants. | |

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of a judgment made and entered in the above titled action on the 18th day of January, 2005, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due Plaintiff in the above titled action from Defendants, as prescribed in the judgment, the undersigned counsel will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the **19th day of May, 2011 at 10 a.m.**, at the Marianas Public Land Trust Conference Room, Capitol Hill, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit:

Lot No. 002 G 400, containing an area of 924 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 002 G 09 dated May 31, 1989 and filed at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office on May 14, 1990 as File No. 90-1906.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

- Rights and duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
 - withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
 - To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
 - To reject any and all bids.
- Bids.** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749.
- Deposit and Payment.** A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or money order. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to MPLT.
- Change of Terms.** Auctioneer and MPLT reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct an enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
- Inspection and No Warranty.** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 16th day of March, 2011.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
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(Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

| | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST, | Civil Action No. 06-0331-CV |
| Plaintiff, | SECOND NOTICE OF SALE |
| vs. | |
| DIEGO SN. DELA CRUZ and LEOLANIE R. DELA CRUZ, | |
| Defendants. | |

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of a judgment made and entered in the above titled action on the 14th day of August, 2007, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due Plaintiff in the above titled action from Defendants, as prescribed in the judgment, the undersigned counsel will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the **19th day of May, 2011 at 10 a.m.**, at the Marianas Public Land Trust Conference Room, Capitol Hill, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit:

Lot/Tract No.011 G 403, containing an area of 858 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 011 G 07, the original of which was recorded on December 16, 1993 as Document No. 93-4415 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

- Rights and duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
 - withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
 - To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
 - To reject any and all bids.
- Bids.** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749.
- Deposit and Payment.** A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or money order. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to MPLT.
- Change of Terms.** Auctioneer and MPLT reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct an enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
- Inspection and No Warranty.** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 16th day of March, 2011.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

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Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

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|---|------------------------------|
| MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST, | Civil Action No. 06-0328-CV |
| Plaintiff, | THIRD AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE |
| vs. | |
| FERNANDO H. RAMANGMOU and MARIE E. RAMANGMOU, | |
| Defendants. | |

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of a judgment made and entered in the above titled action on the 14th day of February, 2007, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due Plaintiff in the above titled action from Defendants, as prescribed in the judgment, the undersigned counsel will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the **19th day of May, 2011 at 10 a.m.**, at the Marianas Public Land Trust Conference Room, Capitol Hill, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit:

Lot 002 G 303, containing an area of 929 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands & Surveys Official Plat No. 002 G 07 dated May 31, 1989 and filed at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office on May 14, 1990 as File No. 90-1904.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

- Rights and duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
 - withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
 - To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
 - To reject any and all bids.
- Bids.** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749.
- Deposit and Payment.** A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or money order. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to MPLT.
- Change of Terms.** Auctioneer and MPLT reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct an enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
- Inspection and No Warranty.** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 16th day of March, 2011.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Immigration: A better farm worker fix

The debate over a guest-worker program is heating up again in Congress. At issue is the H-2A visa program, which allows agricultural growers to legally hire temporary or seasonal foreign workers. Rooted in the controversial bracero program that recruited thousands of Mexicans to work on U.S. farms during the 1940s and '50s, it was overhauled in 1986 to protect field workers against wage and housing abuses.

Growers say the current H-2A program is too expensive and cumbersome, requiring them to file multiple applications with state and federal labor officials to help meet their needs for legal labor. They are asked to predict months or even a year in advance how many workers they will need, even though crop yields and harvest times can vary from season to season. They also must demonstrate that they tried to hire U.S. workers by posting online ads before they can apply for the visas.

Now growers are asking Congress to roll back changes made to the program last year by the Obama administration. They say the new rules, including an increase in the average pay of field workers and a requirement that government officials inspect worker housing, have made the program impractical and left them with little choice but to hire illegal workers or watch their crops rot.

But relaxing the regulations isn't the solution. It might encourage a few more growers to apply for temporary workers, but not nearly enough to replace the 1 million illegal farm workers currently in the fields and orchards. The H-2A program provides only about 3 percent of the total agricultural workforce, according to Western Growers, a trade association that represents farmers in California and Arizona. Instead, rolling back protections would invite abuse by reducing government oversight.

There is another approach. Congress should revive the Agriculture Job Opportunities, Benefits and Security Act. AgJOBS isn't an amnesty for illegal immigrants. It would allow undocumented workers who are already harvesting crops to legalize their immigration status as long as they worked at least six months in the U.S. during 2007 and 2008. They would be required to undergo a background check, pay a fine and work in the fields for at least three more years.

Growers are understandably frustrated. They can't find Americans willing to do the backbreaking work, and the H-2A program can't replace a permanent workforce that is currently undocumented and vulnerable. Farm work is hard. Congress shouldn't make it harder by rolling back protections for guest workers, nor by pushing migrant workers deeper underground to do the work few Americans choose to do.

(c) 2011, Los Angeles Times



Snapshot of a split America

One of American politics' most comforting nostrums is the notion that we always are united by far more than what divides us. It's a sentiment Barack Obama repeats frequently in his speeches, and both the president and California Gov. Jerry Brown are relying on it to help them move toward resolution of government's worst budgetary crisis in generations.

A comprehensive new survey of the American electorate by the nonpartisan Pew Research Center, however, indicates that the most politically engaged Americans now are fundamentally opposed to compromise, divided on virtually every basic national question and separated from each other by everything from their race to the choice of where they get their news. Moreover, the increasing numbers of independents, who've theoretically pushed national politics to the center with their preference for middle-of-the-road policies, no longer are particularly moderate. California has traversed this sort of political landscape for more than a decade, and now the rest of the nation seems poised to discover that it's a difficult and disconcerting place.

The nation's partisan alignment, according to Pew, now closely resembles California's: 25 percent of the registered voters hold views that make them "mostly Republican"; 40 percent incline "mostly Democratic"; and 35 percent are independents of various stripes.

The Republicans, according to Pew's findings, are overwhelmingly white (about 9 out of 10), devoutly and decisively Protestant (roughly 7 out of 10) and financially well off (7 of 10). The old divide between the GOP's social and economic conservatives, Pew found, has been erased. These days, to be Republican is to be equally conservative in both areas. This national realignment, the Pew analysts argue, is the most significant change in the six years since their last such survey, though it occurred in California years ago.

While a majority of the Democrats' most ideologically liberal members (16 percent of the electorate) are white, the party's other factions also include large percentages of upwardly mobile white immigrants, blacks and Latinos, as well as a substantial number of blue-collar whites and blacks (together, 15 percent of registered voters). Nearly half of those African-Americans and working-class whites "expect they will earn enough to lead the kind of life they want." They also are "socially conservative and very religious," which sets them apart from this coalition's other constituents.

Perhaps the most striking of Pew's findings is the realization that independent voters remain free of party but not of ideology, ranging from libertarians (now 10 percent of registered voters) to a group

By TIM RUTTEN
Los Angeles Times



Timothy Rutten is a columnist for the Los Angeles Times. Readers may send him e-mail at timothy.rutten@latimes.com.

that, the poll says, takes "conservative positions on questions about racial policy and the social safety net" but is "very liberal on social issues." This latter bloc (14 percent of the electorate) is overwhelmingly white, younger than most, is not particularly religious and lives in the suburbs.

"What we see is a much bigger and increasingly diverse middle," Pew's Andrew Kohut told the *Washington Post* this week. "What's striking about it is that they're not so moderate. People in the middle have some strong, well-defined ideological points of view."

Americans' consumption of news and information increasingly mirrors our ideological preferences: Democrats solidly rely on CNN; Republicans on Fox News. Nearly 1 in 5 "solidly liberal" voters regularly reads the *New York Times*; just 1 out of 100 "staunch conservatives" does. Slightly more than 20 percent of the former watch "The Daily Show"; a nearly equal proportion of the latter are Glenn Beck fans. Thirty-four percent of liberals listen to NPR; less than 1 in 10 conservatives does.

Perhaps most troubling, Pew found that a majority of registered voters—and a stunning 79 percent of "staunch conservatives"—say they "prefer elected officials who stick to their positions over those who make compromises with people they disagree with."

For generations, historians and political analysts have identified a predilection for pragmatic problem-solving over ideology as the defining—and distinctive—characteristic of American political life. Clearly, that's a thing of the past, and with it, the impulse to bipartisanship. As we've seen in the wake of Osama bin Laden's killing this week, that now extends to foreign policy too. In California, we've watched this shift away from compromise bring effective government virtually to a halt. It's not an experience we can afford to repeat on the national level.

Still, a democratic system that disdains compromise has no way forward but the brutality of simple majoritarianism. In a society as diverse and divided as ours, that path is sown with its own perils.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Experiencing a transformation

It's estimated that \$40 billion is spent each year on diets and weight reduction so a person can transform into a new slimmer and trimmer version of their former self. A transformation is the act or process of changing into something different, usually into something with an improved appearance or usefulness. Gold's Gym, in conjunction with dotFit, recently held its Transformation Challenge 2011 to motivate individuals to make a difference in their own lives. Almost 50 men and 40 women took the challenge to not only lose weight, but also lower their body fat percentage and improve their physical appearance.

I decided to join because my health had suffered due to a year-old shoulder injury that limited my movement and forced me to stop exercising months ago. The pain would cause me to wake up several times each night and to be tired the next day. I'd seen two doctors and a chiropractor to get help and consigned myself to the suffering as a part of getting old. To add to my health problems, my blood pressure was labeled as pre-hypertension.

So here I was, an aging, out-of-shape man in his mid-50s trying to kick start my body. I forced myself to begin exercising, even though it was very difficult at first. At the time I could only do a maximum of 16 push-ups, 70 sit-ups and not one pull-up due to my shoulder injury.

Even though I didn't look "fat" at my starting weight of 170.6 lbs, my body fat percentage was on the borderline of being overweight at 25.6 percent and my pants were a little too snug. The Challenge motivated me to develop a new lifestyle that included regular exercise and better eating habits.

I watched several videos of the pioneer fitness leader Jack LaLanne, who passed away a few months ago, and I noticed that he repeated certain principles over and over, so I tried to live by them.

A bump for Obama

Anyone who thinks that Barack Obama is home free in 2012 just because he whacked Osama bin Laden would be well advised to revisit 1992.

Eighteen months before that election, George H.W. Bush was assumed to be a cinch for a second term. He had just won the Gulf War by shoving Saddam Hussein out of Kuwait, and his poll approval was in the stratosphere. It appeared that '92 was going to be a national-security election, and by tradition that was considered Republican turf. But in the end, voters didn't care about Saddam. They cared about the recession, and they booted Bush from office in part because he seemed to be out to lunch.

I cite '92 as merely a cautionary tale. It's nuts to think that Obama can win re-election simply because he has established his creds as a gutsy commander in chief. In all likelihood, the hit on bin Laden won't mean squat in the voting booth. Memories are short in ADD America, and, besides, the guy can only die once. The jobless are hurting every day.

Granted, Obama has reaped some political benefits. He made a tough call on bin Laden—choosing the most high-risk, high-reward option—and it paid off. Americans spanning the ideological spectrum bonded with each other. (Something worked, for a change!) Most notably, young adults, many of whom were traumatized teens on 9/11, were able to express some existential relief.

Obama also made it tougher for Republicans to tag him as "weak." Now he can refute those attacks in a single sentence fit for a bumper sticker: Obama killed Osama. In politics, shorthand is important: He did what George W. Bush failed to do. He decisively signed off on a meticulous can-do American mission—thereby trumping the smear artists who call him un-American. As David Frum, the ex-speechwriter for Bush, remarked the other day, while praising the bin Laden decision, "Here's hoping that we have at last seen the end of this ugly insinuation that there is something less than fully American about the black president with the exotic name."

Obama exorcised the Democratic ghosts. He didn't screw up—as Bill Clinton did during Black Hawk Down in '93, or as Jimmy Carter did, when those rescue helicopters burned in the desert back in '80. Much to the Republicans' dismay, there's no way they can rhetorically link Obama with the hapless Mike Dukakis, who looked like Snoopy during his infamous military tank ride in campaign '88. No, they can't say about Obama what Bush senior said about Dukakis: "I wouldn't be surprised if he thought 'naval exercise' was something you find in Jane Fonda's workout book."

Quite the contrary, because none of Obama's prospective '12 rivals have substantive foreign-policy experience. The sole exception, if he chooses to run, is Jon Huntsman. But Huntsman earned his spurs as

One of his witticisms was: "If man made it, don't eat it." In other words, if it had a nutritional label on it, avoid it. This meant I didn't open a can, box, or package to eat something and instead primarily ate fresh fruits and vegetables I bought at the local markets. I also ate small portions of lean meats such as chicken and fish. Another simple principle I lived by was to avoid any white stuff, such as refined sugar, salt, rice, potatoes, pasta, and bread products (although I did succumb to some great tasting brownies and a slice of homemade blueberry pie).

Another principle LaLanne repeated was: "Your waistline is your lifeline." This meant that I focused on proper nutrition and regular exercise with not only the goal to lose weight, but to reduce my waistline and body fat percentage. My starting waist measurement was 37.5 inches. We have a scale that measures both weight and body fat percentage so every day I would get on it and record my results in a spreadsheet to track my progress. I started an exercise routine that included stretching, and walking or jogging 3 to 5 miles, three times each week. I also used weights and my body weight to exercise three times a week. Each week I recorded the maximum number of sit-ups, push-ups, and pull-ups I could perform.

The Challenge lasted 12 weeks and by the final weigh-in on April 16th, I was down to 142.4 pounds (28.2 lbs loss), which is about what I weighed in high school. My waist was 30.75 inches, and I could start to see a six-pack that I'd lost decades ago. My body fat percentage went to a healthy 17.3 percent, although the body fat machine recorded 8.8 percent. My blood pressure is now normal, I have more energy, the pain in my shoulder has greatly diminished, and I'm sleeping through the night. In addition, all my pants are fitting too loosely and I'm using the last hole on my belt to keep them

Obama's ambassador to China; working for the enemy might not be an asset in the Republican primaries. And the guy who's currently most coveted by the Republican establishment, Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels, is so unschooled on issues abroad that when a reporter asked him the other day whether he was ready to debate Obama on foreign policy, he replied, "Probably not." (Give Daniels points for candor; a Republican is never supposed to cop to such a weakness.)

In the wake of bin Laden's death, even a Republican strategist, ex-Marine intelligence officer John Ullyot, insisted that Obama had armed himself with "a very quick and powerful talking point right up to the 2012 election." But I question that. Obama has received a predictable poll "bounce"—depending on the survey, his job approval has jumped somewhere between six and 11 points—but nothing can erase a moment of good feeling faster than ongoing bad vibes.

What zapped the senior Bush, in the aftermath of the glorious Gulf War, was the perception that he was insufficiently attentive to the citizenry's economic anxieties. I remember talking with New Hampshire voters on the eve of that state's primary, in early '92, and none of them mentioned Saddam. All they talked about was the joblessness and the empty storefronts in town. The commander in chief hero of the Gulf War was so empathy-deficient that when he stumped in New Hampshire, he read a phrase directly from his index card: "Message—I Care."

Ron Kaufman, who served as the senior Bush's political director, reminded the press the other day, "My guy took down the Berlin Wall and won the Gulf War, but it didn't matter. ... This ('12) election is about three things: jobs, houses, and cars."

He's right. We're all pleased that bin Laden sleeps with the fishes, but voters won't be indulging in triumphalism 18 months hence if people are still out of work, and homes are still being foreclosed, and pain still persists at the gas pump. I'm not suggesting that '12 will be a guaranteed reprise of '92—for starters, Obama is far more domestically engaged than Bush senior ever was—but all it will take, to make the race competitive, is a few bad job reports.

The April report, released Friday, was somewhat bullish. Private employers created 268,000 jobs, the biggest monthly hike in five years, and it came despite the high gas prices. But because more jobless people started looking for work, the jobless rate upped from 8.8 to 9 percent. Republicans will make use of the latter, and renew their calls for deficit reduction and deep spending cuts. In other words, they're not going to cede their domestic issues just because the president has scored a big win overseas. Unless his poll bounce becomes permanent, our polarized domestic politicking won't change a whit.

Indeed, the big debate in 2012 won't be over how we should fight the war on terrorism abroad; it will be over the direction of the economy and the role of government at home. In other words: Osama who?

By RIK VILLEGRAS
Special to the Tribune

Rik is a writer, life-long learner, and business instructor at Northern Marianas College. He can be contacted at RikVillegas@gmail.com, and you can comment on this article at <http://rikv.blogspot.com>.



up. My physical transformation included being able to do over 80 push-ups at one time, over 200 sit-ups in 5 minutes, and 50 pull-ups in 3 minutes—and I'm still trying to better those numbers.

My results were good enough to earn me second place in the 40 and above men's division, which included cash and prizes from Trench Tech, Subway Sandwiches, and Gold's Gym. The real challenge will be to keep the weight off and even continue to see more improvement. As a final take-away, I believe that any transformation—whether it is physical, intellectual, financial, or spiritual—requires three key components to realize a specific goal: 1) a real desire and commitment to achieve the goal no matter what, 2) understanding and living by correct principles for the particular area you want to improve, and 3) consistent and persistent effort following the principles and regularly monitoring results in order to be held accountable.

I hope this article shows that it is never too late to accomplish a goal and that any improvement is worth recognizing and celebrating. I would like to thank all the sponsors that made the Transformation Challenge possible and congratulate all those who participated in the Gold's Gym Transformation Challenge. Good luck to continued improvement in the coming months.

By DICK POLMAN
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Dick Polman is a columnist for the Philadelphia Inquirer. Readers may write to him at: Philadelphia Inquirer, P.O. Box 8263, Philadelphia, Pa. 19101, or by e-mail at dpolman@phillynews.com; blog: <http://www.dickpolman.blogspot.com>.



Letter to the Editor

Don't let economy dictate your life

When my attitudes are right, there's no barrier too high, no valley too deep, no dream too extreme, and no challenge too great for me. A thought borrowed from Charles Swindoll.

It's not going to be easy. I will take on the challenges head on until my tears and sweat are blood. My love is just too great. This fire (or flood) will not die out easily. And if I impact just 10 people, I will be content. I know the multiplier effect never fails. I hope to not be alone and receive positive outcomes and meet my army of like-minded individuals in the CNMI. I don't think the job market is that bad. I saw an opening, applied, and was hired within the same week. I'm going to do what I love and I know I'll love what I do. I just need to get transportation issues settled and I'll be home soon.

I don't let the economy dictate my life. I'm not participating in this recession and no one else should too. I've never let failure or pessimism stop me. I let it redirect me to where I really need to be.

If interested in more of what I have already started, please be one of the 322 members of the FB group "Being the change the CNMI needs" and a member of our growing new group, CNMI Youth Revolution. Help our cause by inviting friends, joining, donating. We've already received \$225 in donations for non-profit groups in the CNMI.

Jeaniffer H. Cubangbang
Kodiak, AK

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.pr.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

| TODAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY | MONDAY |
|---|---|--|--|--|
|  Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph. |  Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph. |  Partly cloudy with isolated showers. |  Partly cloudy with isolated showers. |  Partly cloudy with isolated showers. |
| ▲ 88° ▼ 77° | ▲ 88° ▼ 77° | ▲ 88° ▼ 77° | ▲ 88° ▼ 77° | ▲ 88° ▼ 77° |

Micronesia

| | | |
|---------------|---------------|-----------|
| Guam and Rota | Thunderstorms | ▲ 87 ▼ 80 |
| Palau | Thunderstorms | ▲ 85 ▼ 78 |
| Yap | Thunderstorms | ▲ 87 ▼ 77 |
| Chuuk | Thunderstorms | ▲ 83 ▼ 78 |
| Pohnpei | Showers | ▲ 85 ▼ 76 |
| Kosrae | Rain | ▲ 85 ▼ 78 |
| Majuro | Showers | ▲ 83 ▼ 77 |

Around The Globe

| | | |
|----------------|----------------|-----------|
| Auckland | Mostly Sunny | ▲ 68 ▼ 60 |
| Beijing | Sunny | ▲ 80 ▼ 55 |
| Hong Kong | Thundershowers | ▲ 81 ▼ 76 |
| Honolulu | Partly Cloudy | ▲ 83 ▼ 73 |
| London | Partly Cloudy | ▲ 65 ▼ 48 |
| Los Angeles | Mostly Sunny | ▲ 71 ▼ 59 |
| Manila | Thundershowers | ▲ 89 ▼ 79 |
| Melbourne | Partly Cloudy | ▲ 58 ▼ 49 |
| Miami | Partly Cloudy | ▲ 91 ▼ 76 |
| New York | Mostly Sunny | ▲ 73 ▼ 54 |
| Osaka | Sunny | ▲ 71 ▼ 59 |
| Paris | Sunny | ▲ 68 ▼ 45 |
| Pusan | Windy | ▲ 68 ▼ 56 |
| Rome | Partly Cloudy | ▲ 74 ▼ 57 |
| Salem | Partly Cloudy | ▲ 62 ▼ 43 |
| San Francisco | Partly Cloudy | ▲ 61 ▼ 51 |
| Seoul | Sunny | ▲ 65 ▼ 51 |
| Tokyo | Mostly Sunny | ▲ 78 ▼ 61 |
| Washington, DC | Mostly Sunny | ▲ 75 ▼ 55 |

Tides

| Saipan Harbor | | |
|---------------|-------|---------------------|
| 3:01 AM | Today | High Tide: 1.9 Feet |
| 9:22 AM | Today | Low Tide: 0.8 Feet |
| 2:33 PM | Today | High Tide: 1.5 Feet |
| 9:00 PM | Today | Low Tide: 0.3 Feet |

Sunrise/Sunset

| Sunrise/Sunset | | | Moonrise/Moonset | | |
|----------------|---------|---------|------------------|---------|---------|
| Today | 5:50 AM | 6:37 PM | Today | 1:26 PM | 1:12 AM |
| Friday | 5:49 AM | 6:38 PM | Friday | 2:23 PM | 1:56 AM |
| Saturday | 5:49 AM | 6:38 PM | Saturday | 3:22 PM | 2:40 AM |
| Sunday | 5:49 AM | 6:38 PM | Sunday | 4:23 PM | 3:26 AM |
| Monday | 5:48 AM | 6:39 PM | Monday | 5:26 PM | 4:16 AM |

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

ISLAND SNAPSHTOS

Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.

BUSINESS

Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.

SAMUT SARI

Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.

TRAVELOGUE

Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan

To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.

- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 10, 2011

| DEPARTURES | | | ARRIVALS | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------|---------|-------------------------------|-----------|---------|-----------|------------------|
| SAIPAN-GUAM | | | GUAM-SAIPAN | | | | |
| C09317 | 4:25am | 5:15am | Daily | C09316 | 2:45am | 3:35am | Daily |
| C09313 | 7:55am | 8:45am | 3, 6 | C09596 | 6:35am | 7:25am | 3, 6 |
| C09313 | 8:30am | 9:20am | 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 | C09596 | 7:00am | 7:50am | 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 |
| C09601 | 12:10pm | 1:00pm | 1, 4, 5, 7 | C09600 | 10:05am | 10:55am | 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 |
| C09603 | 3:05pm | 3:55pm | 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 | 5K389 | 1:35pm | 2:25pm | 1, 4, 6 |
| 5K382 | 6:00pm | 6:50pm | 2, 5, 7 | C09602 | 1:40pm | 2:30pm | 1, 4, 5, 7 |
| C09605 | 6:30pm | 7:20pm | Daily | C09604 | 5:10pm | 6:00pm | Daily |
| C09599 | 9:30pm | 10:20pm | Daily | C09606 | 8:00pm | 8:50pm | Daily |
| SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) | | | NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN | | | | |
| DL287 | 6:00am | 8:45am | Daily | DL298 | 10:25am | 3:00pm | Daily |
| DL297 | 4:35pm | 7:20pm | Daily | DL288 | 8:05pm | 12:35am+1 | Daily |
| SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) | | | BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN | | | | |
| 0Z608 | 3:20am | 6:50am | 1, 5 | 0Z607 | 9:00pm | 2:20am+1 | 4, 7 |
| SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) | | | SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN | | | | |
| 0Z606 | 2:20am | 6:00am | 1 | 0Z603 | 9:00am | 2:30pm | 2, 4, 6, 7 |
| 0Z606 | 2:50am | 6:30am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 | 0Z605 | 7:40pm | 1:10am+1 | 7 |
| 0Z604 | 3:30pm | 7:00pm | 2, 4, 6, 7 | 0Z605 | 8:10pm | 1:40am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 |
| SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) | | | SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN | | | | |
| MU590 | 4:30am | 7:20am | 2, 6 | MU589 | 8:50pm | 3:30am+1 | 1, 5 |
| 3U8648 | 6:10am | 8:40am | 1, 5 | 3U8647 | 10:40pm | 5:00am+1 | 4, 7 |
| SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) | | | GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN | | | | |
| 3U8646 | 4:20am | 7:30am | 2, 4 | 3U8645 | 7:40pm | 3:00am+1 | 1, 5 |
| SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) | | | MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN | | | | |
| 0Z606/701 | 2:20am | 11:25am | 1 via ICN | 0Z704/603 | 12:10am | 2:30pm | 2, 4, 6, 7 |
| 0Z606/701 | 2:50am | 11:25am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, | | | | |

Business

Microsoft deal should vastly expand reach of Skype

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Imagine using your Xbox and switching from a game to a video chat with a faraway friend holding an iPad. Or going into your office email to invite Grandma to a virtual family reunion beamed on TV sets to relatives across the country.

Microsoft's \$8.5 billion purchase of Skype is supposed to make using the Internet for video phone calls as common as logging on to Facebook or instant messaging is today.

If it wins regulatory approval, the deal announced Tuesday provides Microsoft, the world's largest software maker, with the means to sell more digital advertising and offer more popular conferencing tools to help businesses save money.

Skype's services also span hot markets—online socializing, mobile phones and digital video—where Microsoft has been struggling to catch up with Facebook, Apple and Google.

Analysts and investors couldn't seem to agree whether Microsoft is wasting its money on an unprofitable service or has pulled off a coup that will help it restore clout. Microsoft stock was virtually unchanged, falling 0.6 percent.

About 170 million people worldwide use Skype regularly for calls and chats. Microsoft believes it can attract hundreds of millions more by weaving Skype into its products. Not just Windows, which runs on eight of every 10 computers and servers on the planet, but also its Outlook email program, software for phones and the Xbox video game console.

Microsoft already has a Skype-like service called Windows Live. But the real Skype is far more popular and bridges different computers and phones. Already, someone using the Skype application on an iPhone can talk to someone who has it installed on a Dell laptop.

For businesses, Microsoft has separate communications software. Building Skype into it would make it easier for corporate users to conduct video chats with people at other companies, or from home, said Bern Elliott, an analyst at the research firm Gartner Inc.

Skype allows users to make voice and video calls for free or pennies. Calls from one Skype account to another are free. Those to a landline or



Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer, left, and Skype CEO Tony Bates speak during a news conference in San Francisco Tuesday, May 10, 2011, to announce Microsoft's acquisition of Skype.

cellphone using the regular phone network cost money, but much less than going through the phone company.

It has become a popular

way to avoid large phone bills. Skype is the largest provider of international calling services in the world, surpassing any single phone company, according to

research firm TeleGeography.

Skype users made 207 billion minutes of voice and video calls last year—almost 400,000 years' worth. Most of that was

free, which has made it difficult for Skype to make money. Only about 5 percent of active Skype users pay for it.

Microsoft pledged to keep Skype in all the places it is currently available, including mobile devices that run the software of two major rivals, Apple and Google. Skype users don't have to pay to install the software on Apple's iPhone, iPad computer tablet or devices running on Google's Android system.

The new ownership probably means more advertising in Skype's video services along with potentially compelling new uses. Skype only recently began experimenting with ads. Microsoft, which has a much larger sales team, intends to expand them.

The partnership would also bring Skype to the Xbox video game console and has sold 50 million copies, making it the world's No. 2 video game system behind the Nintendo Wii.

Already, players using the Kinect motion-sensing controllers can videoconference with each other. The Microsoft-Skype part-

nership means a player could one day put a game aside and use the Xbox to call anyone else who has registered for a Skype account—a grandmother on her landline phone, a friend holding an Android phone, a coworker using Outlook email at work.

It's also conceivable that Microsoft could expand Skype's video chatting services into Facebook, the social networking site that has more than 500 million users of its own. Microsoft owns a 1.6 percent stake in Facebook, and both have an interest in cutting into Google's power.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Postal Service reports billions in losses

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Postal Service is continuing to hemorrhage money, reporting a loss Tuesday of more than \$2 billion over the first three months of the year and warning it could be forced to default on federal payments.

Such a default would not interrupt mail service to millions of Americans, but it could further hobble an agency struggling with a sharp decline in mail because of the Internet and a tough economy. The agency says the \$2.2 billion loss covers Jan. 1 to March 31—sharply higher than the net loss of \$1.6 billion for the same period last year. The post office also said it will have reached its borrowing limit, set by Congress, of \$15 billion by the end of the budget year on Sept. 30.

Apple defends iPhone 'hot spot'-logging

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Apple is telling Congress that the iPhone's logging of nearby Wi-Fi hot spots and cell towers is meant to improve service, not stalk customers. Apple emphasized, as it had previously, that any data that's transmitted back to Apple about the locations of the hot spots and cell towers is anonymous, and not tied to a particular user.

Apple is building a database of such information to make location-based services, such as mobile mapping, work faster. Using GPS signals can take several minutes to locate a phone, while using the location of known hot spots and cell towers stored directly on the phone can be quicker.

Casino execs to make pitch for online poker

WASHINGTON (AP)—With millions of people already playing online poker for money, the casino industry is urging Congress to step in and regulate the wagering.

Members of the American Gaming Association said Tuesday that about 1,000 offshore websites are targeting the U.S. market.

Commercial casinos have become more supportive of legalizing online poker in recent years as they watched offshore companies take advantage of the boom in poker wagering. Five years ago, Congress passed legislation that was designed to hamper Internet wagering. It

proceeds in the United States would create jobs and provide revenue to the federal government and states.

"It's time we take a look at this," said Virginia McDowell, president and CEO of the Isle of Capri Casinos, Inc.

Commercial casinos have become more supportive of legalizing online poker in recent years as they watched offshore companies take advantage of the boom in poker wagering. Five years ago, Congress passed legislation that was designed to hamper Internet wagering. It

prohibited banks and credit card issuers from processing gambling payments.

Still, people keep betting, but they are doing so with less responsible offshore companies, said Frank Fahrenkopf, president and CEO of the American Gaming Association.

"The millions of American who are playing poker online deserve to know they are playing safely with law-abiding operators," Fahrenkopf said during a news conference at the National Press Club.

Senate Majority Leader

GM to add or keep 4,000 jobs in US

TOLEDO, Ohio (AP)—General Motors is putting out help wanted signs.

GM said Tuesday that it will add or keep 4,000 jobs in the U.S. by hiring new employees or calling back furloughed workers over the next year and a half. It's the latest sign that the company and U.S. car industry are recovering from a sales slump and bankruptcies.

"Those jobs impact and reverberate in our economy," said GM CEO Dan Akerson, who spoke at a transmission

plant in Toledo, where up to 400 new workers will be hired or retained.

GM will spend \$2 billion at 17 plants in eight states to create the new work. Most of the investment will be in the Midwest. Beyond that, few details were released about where the jobs will land.

It's also not clear how many of the positions will be new hires. Many will be existing jobs retained with the introduction of new cars and trucks. The automaker will announce over the

next few months which plants are getting new investments.

GM spokeswoman Kimberly Carpenter said the company has about 1,300 laid off workers waiting to be recalled in the U.S. GM expects to recall all of them by the end of the year and already is adding workers at factories in Flint, Mich., Orion Township, Mich., and Delta Township, Mich., near Lansing, she said.

The news is sure to boost GM's image after it came under fire for taking a \$50 billion gov-

ernment bailout.

All the jobs will be in addition to 9,500 created or retained since GM left bankruptcy protection in 2009.

Akerson said he's confident about the economy and demand for new cars, especially fuel-efficient models that have helped GM's sales. General Motors Co. reported its best profit in more than a decade last week, earning \$3.2 billion in the first quarter.

GM also plans to invest in factories outside the U.S. to meet increased demand, Akerson said, but he would give no details.



LEADING INDICATORS

DOW

12,760.40
75.68
0.60%

S&P

1,357.16
10.87
0.81%

NASDAQ

2,871.89
28.64
1.01%

EXCHANGE RATES

| | |
|-------------------|--------|
| Australian Dollar | 0.9283 |
| British Pound | 0.6103 |
| Canadian Dollar | 0.9636 |
| Chinese Yuan | 6.4942 |
| Euro | 0.6973 |

Hong Kong Dollar 7.7727

Indian Rupee 44.715

Indonesian Rupiah 8,552.5

Japanese Yen 80.3345

Malaysian Ringgit 2.9865

New Zealand Dollar 1.2595

Philippine Peso 42.8845

Singapore Dollar 1.2332

South Korean Won 1,082.375

Swiss Franc 0.8725

Taiwan Dollar 28.6075

Thailand Baht 30.1900

Nation

Mississippi Delta braces for historic flood

TUNICA, Miss. (AP)—The bulging Mississippi River rolled into the fertile Mississippi Delta on Tuesday, threatening to swamp antebellum mansions, wash away shotgun shacks, and destroy fields of cotton, rice and corn in a flood of historic proportions.

The river took aim at one of the most poverty-stricken parts of the country after cresting before daybreak at Memphis, Tenn., just inches short of the record set in 1937. Some low-lying neighborhoods were inundated, but the city's high levees protected much of the rest of Memphis.

Over the past week or so in the Delta, floodwaters along the rain-swollen river and its backed-up tributaries have already washed away crops, forced many people to flee to higher ground and closed some of the dockside casinos that are vital to the state's economy.

But the worst is yet to come,



Glynn Price, Jr., 12, left, and his brother Nicholas Price, 3, play in a sand pile as family members take a break from sandbagging their home in preparation of impending flooding from the likely diversion of Mississippi River floodwaters into the Atchafalaya Basin, in Stephensville, La., Tuesday, May 10, 2011.

with the crest expected to roll through the Delta over the next few days. The damage in Memphis was estimated at more

than \$320 million as the serious flooding began, and an official

tally won't be available until the waters recede.

To the south, there were no early figures on the devastation, but with hundreds of homes already damaged, "we're going to have a lot more when the water gets to where it's never been before," said Greg Flynn, a spokesman for the Mississippi emergency management agency.

Across the region, federal officials anxiously checked and reinforced the levees, some of which could be put to their sternest test ever.

About 10 miles north of Vicksburg, Miss., contractors lined one side of what is known as a backwater levee with big sheets of plastic to keep it from eroding if floodwaters flow over it as feared—something that has never happened to the levee

since it was built in the 1970s.

In Vicksburg, at the southern tip of the rich alluvial soil in the central part of the state, the river was projected to peak on Saturday just above the record set during the cataclysmic Great Flood of 1927. The town was the site of a pivotal Civil War battle and is home to thousands of soldier graves.

Wearing rubber boots and watching fish swim up and down his street, William Jefferson stood on a high spot in his neighborhood just outside Vicksburg. He said he had not had a hot meal since water started coming into his house a few days ago. On Tuesday, the house was under at least 3 feet water, as were dozens of other homes in the neighborhood. Nearby, his brother Milton cast a fishing rod.

Obama mocks Republican position on immigration

EL PASO, Texas (AP)—In search of Hispanic votes and a long-shot immigration overhaul, President Barack Obama on Tuesday stood at the U.S.-Mexico border for the first time since winning the White House and declared it more secure than ever. He mocked Republican lawmakers for blocking immigration over border security alone, saying they won't be happy until they get a moat with alligators along the border.

"They'll never be satisfied," he said.

Stymied by both chambers of Congress, the president ditched lawmakers in favor of voters who might pressure them, making an appeal to the public on a hot and dusty day far outside the beltway. He told a friendly El Paso, Texas, crowd that it's up to them to tell Congress to pass legislation providing a pathway to citizenship for 11 million illegal immigrants.

The approach also allowed the president to make clear that it's Republicans—not him—standing in the way of immigration legislation. As his re-election



President Barack Obama gestures while speaking about immigration reform, Tuesday, May 10, 2011, in El Paso, Texas.

campaign approaches it's a message he wants broadcast loud and clear to Latino voters who don't like his administration's heavy deportations and feel he never made good on his promise to prioritize immigration legislation during his first year in office.

"I am asking you to add your voices to this," Obama said in El Paso. "We need Washington to know that there is a movement for reform gathering strength

from coast to coast. That's how we'll get this done."

Countering Republican calls to focus on border security before moving to a comprehensive overhaul, Obama boasted of increasing border patrol agents, nearing completion of a border fence, and screening more cargo, among other steps.

"We have gone above and beyond what was requested by the very Republicans who said they

supported broader reform as long as we got serious about enforcement," Obama said. "But even though we've answered these concerns, I gotta say I suspect there are still going to be some who are trying to move the goal posts on us one more time."

"Maybe they'll need a moat," he said derisively to laughter from the crowd. "Maybe they'll want alligators in the moat."

"The question is whether those in Congress who previously walked away in the name of enforcement are now ready to come back to the table and finish the work we've started," he said.

Obama also tailored his argument to the times, making his case for immigration reform in newly sharpened economic terms. He said that the middle class would benefit from bringing illegal immigrants out of an underground economy and drawing on the abilities of immigrants educated in American universities. Obama also noted that it's not just Latinos who want an immigration remake, but also police chiefs, business owners, educators and others.

FBI arrests long-sought Puerto Rican militant

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico

(AP)—A Puerto Rican nationalist who was one of two remaining fugitives sought for one of the largest bank robberies in U.S. history was arrested Tuesday as he took a morning stroll in a central town on the island, the FBI said.

Authorities say Norberto Gonzalez Claudio took part in the \$7 million robbery of an armored car depot in West Hartford, Connecticut, in 1983 as a member of the militant independence group Los Macheteros. Gonzalez calmly admitted his identity and then refused to say another word as federal agents and local police arrested him along a jogging track in the town of Cayey, said Luis Fraticelli, special agent in charge of FBI operations in Puerto Rico.

"He seemed surprised" but did not put up any resistance, Fraticelli said.

Authorities did not disclose what led to the arrest.

Fraticelli said that he believed Gonzalez had been hiding out in Puerto Rico the

whole time he was a fugitive and that the FBI is looking into who might have helped him elude authorities during the more than 25 years since his indictment. Later Tuesday, a judge in San Juan approved a search warrant for his house.

Gonzalez, 65, was living alone in a modest home under a false name, and authorities believe he still had an active role in the militant group, which has claimed responsibility for a series of robberies, murders and bombings in the name of Puerto Rican independence, Fraticelli said.

An older brother, Avelino, was sentenced last year to seven years in prison after spending more than two decades as a fugitive for his role in the heist. A third brother, Orlando, was also convicted of taking part in the robbery and has since been released.

James Bergenn, a Connecticut lawyer who represented Avelino Gonzalez after he was captured in 2008, said U.S. law enforcement had been closing in on Tuesday's arrest.

ACROSS THE NATION

Federal judge blocks Utah immigration law

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—A federal judge on Tuesday blocked a Utah immigration law that would have allowed police to check the citizenship status of anyone they arrest, citing its similarities to the most controversial parts of an Arizona law that seems bound for the U.S. Supreme Court. U.S. District Judge Clark Waddoups issued his ruling in Salt Lake City just

14 hours after the law went into effect, saying that there is sufficient evidence that at least some portions of the Utah legislation will be found unconstitutional.

The American Civil Liberties Union and National Immigration Law Center last week sued to stop the implementation of House Bill 497, saying it could lead to racial profiling. The civil rights groups submitted hundreds of pages of evidence and affidavits to prove their claims ahead of Tuesday's hearing.

Pa. girl, 9, found dead; neighbor faces charges

SOUDETTON, Pa. (AP)—A 9-year-old girl who disappeared while playing outside her suburban apartment building was raped, choked and murdered by a neighbor who claimed he had a "whiteout" and just "snapped," authorities said Tuesday. Police found the body of Skyler Kauffman in a

trash bin behind the Souderton Gardens apartments about five hours after her mother reported her missing Monday evening. A 24-year-old neighbor, James Lee Troutman, was charged Tuesday with murder, kidnapping, rape and other offenses. Onlookers jeered as Troutman was led in and out of his arraignment at a courtroom across the street from the low-rise units where he and the victim lived.

Presbyterians clear way for gay clergy

NEW YORK (AP)—After decades of debate, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) on Tuesday struck down a barrier to ordaining gays, ratifying a proposal that removes the celibacy requirement for unmarried clergy, in the latest mainline Protestant move toward accepting gay relationships. The change was endorsed last year by the Presbyterian na-

tional assembly, but required approval by a majority of the denomination's 173 presbyteries, or regional church bodies. Before Tuesday, the vote stood at 86-62 in favor of change. The Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area, based in Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minn., cast the key 87th vote needed for a majority in support of ratification came during a meeting Tuesday night. So far, 62 presbyteries have voted against the measure.

Asia

Musharraf: No deal made to let US get bin Laden

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Former Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf denied Tuesday that his administration struck an agreement with the United States years ago to let American special forces kill or capture Osama bin Laden inside Pakistan.

The denial follows a report in a British newspaper that Washington and Islamabad reached a secret deal nearly a decade ago allowing the U.S. to conduct operations against bin Laden and two other top al-Qaida leaders on Pakistani soil.

"Pervez Musharraf has seen a media report, and let me make it clear that no such agreement had been signed during his tenure," said Musharraf's spokesman, Fawad Chaudhry. He said there

Debate rages about food aid to North Korea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—The U.N. says hunger is driving some North Koreans to eat more wild grass, and humanitarians are pressuring the U.S. and South Korea to send food. But South Koreans who study the North say the crisis has been overstated.

American televangelist Franklin Graham, who has warned of famine and joined calls for more food aid, arrived in the North Korean capital Tuesday to discuss possible contributions from a Christian charity. After a visit there last month, former U.S. President Jimmy Carter blasted Washington and Seoul on the issue.

"One of the most important human rights is to have food to eat, and for South Korea and the U.S. and others to deliberately withhold food aid to the North Korean people is really a human rights violation," Carter said.

The U.N. in March called for more than 430,000 metric tons (474,000 tons) of food aid to fend off disaster, and activists want the U.S. and South Korea to override any political reasons for not giving. But activists, analysts and governments still argue whether North Korea is anywhere close to the famine it saw in the 1990s and what outsiders are obliged to do.

"It is an exaggeration to say there is

was no oral agreement either.

U.S. Navy SEALs conducted a unilateral operation May 2 inside Pakistan that killed bin Laden, the world's most wanted terrorist. The pre-dawn raid was viewed by many Pakistanis as a national humiliation delivered by a deeply unpopular America.

In a report published Thursday, The Guardian newspaper, quoting U.S. officials and retired Pakistani officials, said Musharraf and former President George W. Bush struck the agreement after bin Laden escaped U.S. forces in the mountains of Tora Bora in late 2001. If such a raid were conducted, the agreement was that Pakistani officials would publicly denounce the U.S. unilateral action.

a looming crisis," said Kwon Tae-jin, a South Korean expert on North Korean food and agriculture.

South Korea's intelligence agency estimates that the North's food production may actually have increased last year to 5.11 million metric tons (5.6 million tons), about 100,000 tons more than 2009. The agency head reportedly released the figures to a closed parliamentary committee.

If the South Korean intelligence figures are correct, the difference between the North's supply and demand is not large. Kwon, the expert on North Korean agriculture, said the North's total need might be about 5.3 million metric tons (5.8 million tons)—some of which could come from imports.

"They won't have a famine," Kwon said.

In any case, figures for the North's food production are likely to undercount the total, said the Daily NK, a Seoul-based media outlet that specializes in the North and has sources inside the country.

Many collective farms in the North underreport their food production to the central government so they can sell extra food to raise money for fertilizer and farm equipment, Daily NK said in a report posted online.

"The Guardian report is baseless," Chaudhry said.

In an Associated Press interview in January 2002, Gen. Tommy Franks, who headed the U.S. Central Command at the time, disclosed a deal with Pakistan allowing U.S. troops in Afghanistan to cross the border in pursuit of fugitive extremist leaders, including bin Laden. Pakistan denied such a deal existed.



Major events

- 2001** U.S. lifts some sanctions placed on Pakistan following its nuclear tests and 1999 coup and increases aid; under pressure, Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf offers to cooperate in terror fight
- 2002** Musharraf wins another five years in office, test fires missiles; al-Qaida-linked group kidnaps and kills U.S. journalist Daniel Pearl in Karachi; bomb in an Islamabad church kills five people, including two affiliated with the U.S. embassy
- 2003** Musharraf sends troops to the semiautonomous tribal areas in western Pakistan after U.S. commanders charge that al-Qaida and Taliban members are attacking coalition forces, then escaping to the Pakistani frontier; Pakistan arrests al-Qaida operatives, including Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, alleged to be the mastermind of the 9-11 attacks
- 2004** A.Q. Khan, father of Pakistan's nuclear program, confesses to supplying nuclear weapons technology to Iran, Libya and North Korea and is sentenced to house arrest
- 2005** U.S. provides humanitarian, military assistance after earthquake
- 2006** U.S. and Pakistani presidents exchange visits, reaffirm cooperation on security and economic issues
- 2007** Musharraf reelected, but imposes state of emergency fearing the supreme court will rule against him; he steps down as army chief, lifts the emergency, agrees to parliamentary elections; leader Benazir Bhutto assassinated
- 2008** Musharraf resigns; Bhutto's widower, Asif Ali Zardari, elected president
- 2009** Newly elected U.S. President Barack Obama adopts a new strategy, treating Afghanistan and Pakistan's border region as one war theater, and increases non-military aid; opponents argue that the strategy impinges on Pakistani sovereignty; Pakistan launches military operations in militant strongholds in tribal regions
- 2010** U.S. pledges aid following devastating floods
- 2011** U.S.-Pakistan relations deteriorate after CIA contractor Raymond Davis is arrested for killing two Pakistanis in Lahore; on May 1, U.S. forces kill Osama bin Laden in a hideout not far from Islamabad, deepening suspicions that Pakistan was complicit in hiding him

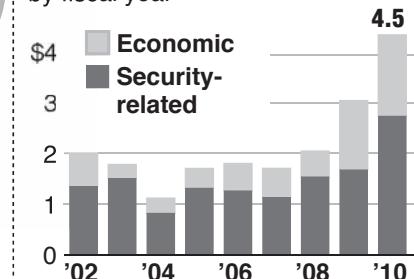


Tracking a troubled relationship

Since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, the U.S. has courted Pakistan, needing that country in its fight against al-Qaida and global terrorism. But the relationship has been fraught with distrust and lack of confidence on both sides.

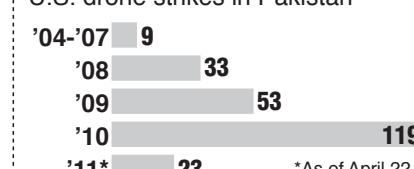
The U.S. has given significant economic aid to Pakistan ...

U.S. aid to Pakistan, in billions, by fiscal year



... but has also stepped up drone attacks to wipe out terrorists ...

U.S. drone strikes in Pakistan



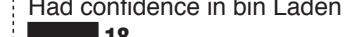
... which have contributed to negative views of the U.S.

Percentage of Pakistanis who ...

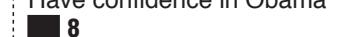
Have an unfavorable view of the U.S.



Had confidence in bin Laden



Have confidence in Obama



*As of April 22

Source: Congressional Research Service, Institute for the Study of War, Council on Foreign Relations, Pew Global Attitudes survey of 2,000 Pakistanis, April 2010; Margin of error: +/- 3 percentage points, Chicago Tribune Graphic: Pat Carr

Taiwan to postpone purchases of US weapons

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Taiwan is postponing purchases of U.S.-made Black Hawk helicopters and Patriot air defense systems that are part of a \$6.4 billion U.S. weapons package that has been strongly opposed by China, officials said.

A lawmaker said Tuesday the delay was caused by budgetary shortfalls, while the Defense Ministry blamed it on manufacturing delays.

Lin Yu-fang, a ruling Nationalist Party lawmaker on the legislature's defense committee, said the government is either delaying purchases of new items or postponing payments for existing programs because of the funding shortfall. The procurement of six Patriot missile systems has been pushed back from 2014 to 2017 and 60 Black Hawk helicopters from 2016 to 2019 or 2020, he said.

Defense Ministry spokesman Luo

Shou-he denied that the postponements were caused by budget constraints and instead cited production delays by U.S. defense contractors.

Taiwan's Patriot air defense systems are being made by Lockheed Martin Corp., while Black Hawk helicopters are produced by Sikorsky Aircraft Corp.

Sikorsky said it would have no comment because it was a government-to-government foreign military sale. Lockheed Martin said there was no manufacturing holdup.

The U.S. remains Taiwan's most important strategic partner and is required by law to provide it with defensive weapons.

Last year, the Obama administration notified Congress it was making \$6.4 billion in weapons available to Taiwan, including missiles, Black Hawk helicopters, information distribution

systems and two Osprey Class mine hunting ships.

American arms sales to Taiwan are strongly opposed by China, which sees them as interference in its domestic affairs and says they undermine ties between Beijing and Washington.

Senior Taiwanese officials have expressed concern that budgetary shortfalls amounting to several billion dollars are causing the government to struggle to meet a plan to turn the military into an all-volunteer service by 2015.

Taiwan has an annual defense budget of \$12.92 billion, while China is spending \$92.57 billion on its military this year.

China claims that Taiwan is part of its territory, although the two sides split during a civil war in 1949. Beijing is determined to unify with Taiwan, by force if necessary.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Storm moves away from Philippines, leaves 22 dead

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A tropical storm caused at least 22 deaths in the Philippines but largely spared northern agricultural regions where farmers welcomed the rain, officials said. Disaster officials had feared Tropical Storm Aere would barrel through provinces during planting season and set off flash floods and landslides. After slamming Catanduanes province Sunday, the storm weakened and just grazed the northeastern seaboard, bringing rain to farmland scorched by the summer heat.

India court urges death penalty for honor killings

NEW DELHI (AP)—India's top court recommended the death penalty for perpetrators of "honor killings," calling the practice barbaric and feudal in a ruling cheered Tuesday by activists who hope it will inspire opposition to a

crime seen as anathema to a democratic nation. Most victims were young adults who fell in love or married against their families' wishes. In some cases, village councils ordered couples killed who married inside their clan or outside their caste. While there are no official figures, an independent study found around 900 people were killed each year in India for defying their elders.

UN aide to visit Myanmar, meet with new government

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—A top aide to U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon is making an official visit to Myanmar on Wednesday to meet members of the country's new elected government and pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi. The visit by Vijay Nambiar, Ban's chief of staff and special adviser for Myanmar, will be the first by a top U.N. diplomat since a nominally civilian government took over from the ruling junta at the end of March.

World

Al-Qaida likely to elevate No. 2—or name no one

BAGHDAD (AP)—A week after the death of Osama bin Laden, his longtime deputy is considered the front-runner to succeed the iconic al-Qaida founder. But uprisings in the Middle East and changing dynamics within the group could point to another scenario: a decision not to appoint anyone at all to replace the world's most-wanted terrorist.

Replacing bin Laden, who founded al-Qaida more than two decades ago and masterminded 9/11, may be no easy task. Analysts say the choice will likely depend on how the terror organization views its goals and priorities in the post-bin Laden age.

The revolt across the Arab world over the past few months was driven by aspirations for Western-style democracy, not the al-Qaida goal of a religiously led state spanning the Muslim world. And as al-Qaida struggles to prove its relevance, the group has become increasingly decentralized and prone to internal disputes.

"You almost have to start with the question of 'Can he be replaced?' said Lt. Col. Reid Sawyer, the director of the West Point, N.Y.-based Countering Terrorism Center.

Whether al-Qaida "even need name an 'official' new leader is uncertain," wrote Rita Katz and Josh Devon in a report by SITE Intelligence Group, which monitors jihadist web traffic. "So long as the group can continue to issue messages ... the group will remain a guiding light for the global jihadist community."

If al-Qaida does pick a suc-



In this file television image from Arab satellite station Al-Jazeera, Osama bin Laden, right, listens as his top deputy Ayman al-Zawahri speaks at an undisclosed location, in this image made from undated video tape broadcast by the station Monday April 15, 2002.

sor, Sawyer and other analysts said Ayman al-Zawahri, 59, is the most likely choice because he was bin Laden's longtime deputy and has far more experience than younger candidates.

Few may want to challenge him openly for the top spot, analysts said.

"If he is passed over for someone else, it tells me that al-Qaida has already splintered," said Fawaz Gerges, an al-Qaida scholar at the London School of Economics.

Al-Zawahri is an Egyptian

doctor who is believed to be hiding somewhere in Pakistan. He founded the Egyptian Islamic Jihad, which was dedicated to overthrowing Hosni Mubarak's government, before merging his group with al-Qaida.

But al-Zawahri lacks bin Laden's personal appeal, and some members of al-Qaida have found him a controlling micro-manager, said a senior U.S. intelligence official who briefed reporters in Washington.

"There are strong indications that he is not popular within cer-

tain circles of the group. So I believe it's an open question as to who will take over," said the official, who requested anonymity to discuss sensitive issues frankly.

One possible challenger is Abu Yahia al-Libi, a Libyan who serves as al-Qaida's Afghanistan commander. Al-Libi, an Islamic scholar, escaped from the U.S.'s Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan in 2005 and began appearing in videos released by the terror group.

Another possibility is Saif al-Adel, an Egyptian who was

indicted by the U.S. for his role in the Aug. 7, 1998 bombings of U.S. embassies in Tanzania and Kenya that killed 224 people. But his close ties with al-Zawahri and lack of religious credentials make him unlikely to lead the group.

Other militants better known in the West, such as Afghan Taliban leader Mullah Mohammed Omar or American-born Adam Gadahn, known as Azzam al-Amriki, stand no chance. Mullah Omar was never a member of al-Qaida, and Gadahn lacks stature within the movement.

Another well-known name, U.S.-born cleric Anwar al-Awlaki, is considered a long-shot at best. Al-Awlaki, who is based in Yemen, is one of the most prominent English-language radical clerics whose sermons have influenced militants involved in attacks or attempted attacks on American soil. But his lack of operational experience and the fact that he's not even the top leader in al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula argue against him.

If al-Zawahri is the successor, he will face sharp challenges in trying to make his severely debilitated organization a force following the Arab spring and bin Laden's death May 2 in a U.S. raid on his hideout in Abbottabad, Pakistan.

After the 9/11 attacks, the West feared that jihad would resonate among millions of disadvantaged and disaffected Arab youths, who saw bin Laden's teachings as the best way to shake off the oppressive governments and the Americans who backed them.

Tripoli sites bombed, rebels claim Misrata gains

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP)—In a one-two punch against Moammar Gadhafi's forces, NATO warplanes struck a command center in the capital, Tripoli, on Tuesday after pounding regime targets around the besieged port of Misrata. Rebels hoped the stepped-up attacks could help extend some of their biggest advances to date, including a major outward push from Misrata.

The opposition also said it made gains along a long-deadlocked front near the eastern town of Ajdabiya.

The rebels' military spokesman, Col. Ahmed Bani, said opposition forces had pushed Gadhafi's troops out of rocket range on the west side of Misrata and dislodged them from the airport after two days of battles, raising the prospect that the siege could be broken.

Bani said rebels from Misrata and Zlitan, 35 miles (55 kilometers) west, had joined up to fight in close-range combat that rendered the regime forces' long-range rockets useless. Speaking to The Associated Press in the rebel headquarters city of Benghazi, Bani said Gadhafi's brigades were pushed about 10 miles (15 kilometers) back from Misrata's airport.

"The picture is looking good for us," he said.

In another boost to the opposition, the U.S. State Department said the first load of non-lethal American military aid for the rebels landed Tuesday at the port in their headquarters city, Benghazi.

Spokesman Mark Toner said the shipment consisted of more than 10,000 meals, with further shipments of medical supplies, boots and pro-

tective gear to arrive shortly. The delivery came ahead of planned meetings in Washington this week between U.S. officials and the head of the opposition Transitional National Council.

The Libyan conflict, dating to mid-February, had seemed stalemated for more than a week, with most of the fighting along the border with Tunisia in the far west. The latest airstrikes and overland advances may give the rebels new momentum in their struggle to topple Gadhafi and win greater freedoms.

The rebels control most of eastern Libya, and Gadhafi most of the west, including Tripoli. Exceptions in the west include pockets of embattled rebel-held towns along the border with Tunisia, and Misrata on the coast.

The NATO planes struck what the alliance called a command and control facility in downtown Tripoli early Tuesday, according to Italian Brig. Gen. Claudio Gabellini.

"All NATO targets are military targets," said Gabellini, who serves on NATO's planning staff at the headquarters in Naples.

He denied that NATO was targeting Gadhafi, saying: "We have no evidence about what Mr. Gadhafi is doing right now, and to tell you the truth we're not really interested."

Gabellini also said 30 regime military targets have been hit since May 2 around Misrata, which has been under siege by Gadhafi's forces for two months. The targets included 12 tanks, three self-propelled guns, three multiple-rocket-launchers, and various vehicles, Gabellini said.

Syrian military tightens grip in areas of unrest

BEIRUT (AP)—Tanks and troops rolled into southern villages near the heart of Syria's anti-government uprising Tuesday, while officials in Washington said the U.S. administration is edging closer to calling for an end to the Assad family's long rule after its violent suppression of the protests.

The Syrian military has been sealing off various areas and conducting house-to-house raids in search of people whose names are on wanted lists, with many people fleeing for fear of detention by President Bashar Assad's regime, activists say.

A human rights group reported Tuesday that more than 750 people have been killed in the crackdown.

In Washington, Obama administration officials said the first step in a new American approach toward Syria would be to declare that Assad has forfeited his legitimacy to rule, a policy shift that would amount to a call for regime change.

The tougher U.S. line almost certainly would echo demands for "democratic transition" that the administration used in Egypt and is now espousing in Libya, the officials said. But directly challenging Assad's leadership is a decision fraught with problems: Arab countries are divided, Europe is still trying to gauge its response and there are major doubts over how far the United States could go to back up its words with action.

The Obama administration's policy deliberations were occurring against a backdrop of ongoing violence in Syria.

Intense military operations have taken place in the Damascus suburb of Maadamiyah, which has been sealed off for days, said human rights activist Mustafa Osso. He said communications have been cut and checkpoints were preventing anyone from entering or leaving the area.

"Maadamiyah is isolated from the rest of the world," Osso said.

The army also was conducting operations in the coastal city of Banias, the central city of Homs and the northern city of Deir el-Zor, Osso said.

"Any area where there are demonstrations, the government is sending the army," he said.

Another activist said troops backed by tanks entered southern villages near Daraa, the city where the uprising began in mid-March. Heavy gunfire was heard when the troops entered Inkhil, Dael, Jassem, Sanamein and Nawa after midnight, but it was not clear if there were casualties, according to the activist, who spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of government reprisals.

WORLD BRIEFS

Police finds heads, 4 bodies in Mexican town

GUADALUPE DISTRITO BRAVOS, Mexico (AP)—It was a bloody sunrise for the people of this dusty Mexican border town Tuesday. Police found two male heads on top of a cement wall in the plaza of Guadalupe Distrito Bravos, a town on the outskirts of Ciudad Juarez, right across El Paso, Texas. Two headless bodies, one of them stabbed in the back, were later found in two separate homes. Another man and a woman were then discovered in a nearby house with their throats slashed. Chihuahua state police said they believed all the killings were related.

Vatican-appointed panel warns of climate change

VATICAN CITY (AP)—A Vatican-appointed panel of scientists has reported what climate change experts have been warning for years: the Earth is getting warmer, glaciers are melting, and urgent measures are necessary to stem the damage. The scientists called for urgent reduction of carbon dioxide emissions and reductions in methane and other pollutants that warm the air, and for improved observation of mountain glaciers to better track their changes.

More than 80 killed in Southern Sudan violence

JUBA, Sudan (AP)—More than 80 people were killed when rebels attacked cattle herders in Southern Sudan, officials said, while hundreds marched in the southern capital to protest the unresolved status of a volatile border hotspot. The governor of Warrap state said Tuesday that rebels loyal to a high-ranking commander who defected from the southern army in March attacked a village of cattle herders in the remote southern state on Sunday. Warrap state governor Nyandeng Malek said militia forces loyal to rebel leader Peter Gadet raided the village of Apuk with the aim of stealing cattle.

Focus

ALEXANDRIA, Virginia (AP)—The young man stood before the judge, his usually neatly trimmed hair now long enough to brush the collar of his prison jumpsuit. Glenn Duffie Shriner had confessed his transgressions and was here, in a federal courtroom, with his mother watching, to receive his sentence and to try, somehow, to explain it all.

When the time came for him to address the court, he spoke of the many dreams he had had to serve his country.

"Mine was to be a life of service," he said. "I could have been very valuable. That was originally my plan."

He had been a seemingly all-American, clean-cut guy: No criminal record. A job teaching English overseas. In letters to the judge, loved ones described the 29-year-old Midwesterner as honest and caring; a good citizen. His fiancee called him "Mr. Patriot."

Such descriptions make the one that culminated in the courtroom all the more baffling: Glenn Shriner also was a spy recruit for China. He took \$70,000 from individuals he knew to be Chinese intelligence officers to try to land a job with a U.S. government agency, first the State Department, later the CIA.

Shriner is just one of at least 57 defendants in federal prosecutions since 2008 charged with espionage conspiracies with China or efforts to pass classified information, sensitive technology or trade secrets to intelligence operatives, state-sponsored entities, private individuals or businesses in China, according to an Associated Press review of U.S. Justice Department cases. Of those, nine are awaiting trial, and two are considered fugitives. The other defendants have been convicted, though some are yet to be sentenced.

Most of these prosecutions have received little public attention, especially compared with the headline splash that followed last year's arrest of 10 Russian "sleeper agents" who had been living in suburban America for more than a decade but, according to Attorney General Eric Holder, passed no secrets.

Contrast that with this snapshot:

■ In Honolulu, Hawaii, a former B-2 bomber engineer gets 32 years in prison for working with the Chinese to develop a vital part for a cruise missile in a case that a high-ranking Justice Department official said resulted in the leak of "some of our country's most sensitive weapons-related designs."

■ In Boston, Massachusetts, a Harvard-educated businessman is sent to prison, along with his ex-wife, for conspiring for a decade to export illegally parts used in military radar and electronic warfare systems to research institutes that manufacture items for the Chinese military. The Department of Defense concluded the illegal exports "represented a serious threat to U.S. national and regional defense security interests."

■ In Los Angeles, California, a man goes to jail for selling Raytheon-manufactured thermal imaging cameras to a buyer in Shanghai whose company develops infrared technology. The cameras are supposed to be restricted for export to China because of "their potential use in a wide variety of military and civilian applications," according to court documents.

■ And in Alexandria, Virginia, there is Shriner, who told the judge quite simply: "Somewhere along the way, I climbed into bed with the wrong people."

All five of these defendants were sentenced over just an 11-day span early this year.

In Shriner's case, when once he asked his Chinese handlers, "What, exactly, do you guys want?" the response, as detailed in court documents, was straightforward: "If it's possible, we want you to get us some secrets or classified information."

Despite denials from Beijing, counterintelligence experts say the cases reveal the Chinese are among the most active espionage offenders in America today, paying more money and going to greater lengths to glean whatever information they can from the United States.



AP This 2010 picture provided on Tuesday, April 19, 2011 by his family shows Glenn Shriner with his grandmother at her house in Kentwood, Mich.

Chinese espionage puts US secrets in wrong hands

By PAULINE ARRILLAGA
FOR THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

For years, U.S. counterintelligence experts have cited a growing espionage threat from China, the product of an ever-more competitive world in which technology is as vital as political intelligence, but a sign, too, of China's increasing prosperity, persistence and patience.

Recent cases reveal not only a high level of activity but also signs of changing tactics and emboldened efforts. In one case, a convicted spy managed to persuade not one but two U.S. government officials to pass him secret information, telling them it was going to Taiwan when he instead passed it to a Chinese official.

The recruitment of more non-Chinese, such as Shriner, also represents a shift, said Larry Wortzel, who serves on the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission.

Then there are the so-called "espionage entrepreneurs," motivated simply by money.

When asked about the recent cases, the Chinese Foreign Ministry questioned the statistics, responding in a statement: "To speak of the Chinese side's so-called 'espionage activities' in the United States is pure nonsense with ulterior motives."

However, Joel Brenner, who served as the U.S. National Counterintelligence Executive from 2006 to 2009, said: "The Chinese espionage threat has been relentless recently. ... We've never seen anything like it. Some of it is public. Some of it is private. And some of it lies in that ambiguous area in between."

Today's "agents" are professors and engineers, businessmen exporting legitimate products while also shipping restricted technology and munitions, criminal capitalists who see only dollar signs. While some may be acting at the direction of a government handler, others supply information

to firms for private enterprise, state-sponsored research or both.

Driving all of this, U.S. officials said, are China's desire to develop a modernized military and its expanding wealth; last year China surpassed Japan as the world's second-largest economy, behind only the United States.

"They have more money to pay for things," said Steve Pelak, a deputy chief of the Justice Department's counterespionage section who points to the amounts given to Shriner before he was ever in a position to access, much less pass, secrets.

Still more money is going to private firms to help develop and build China's military technology, sometimes through parts obtained illegally from U.S. manufacturers.

Indeed most of the Justice Department cases reviewed by the AP involve the illegal export of restricted defense-related parts or so-called "dual-use" technology, which can have commercial or military applications. These are items such as integrated circuits for radar systems, high-power amplifiers designed for use in early-warning radar and missile target acquisition systems, and military grade night-vision technology.

That only scratches the surface. Other cases involve the theft of trade secrets by individuals once employed at major U.S. corporations, including Boeing, Motorola and Dow. In some instances, the secrets were computer source codes or, in cases still awaiting trial, related to the development of organic pesticides and telephone communications technology.

Stolen information about the space shuttle and technical data about the capabilities of the U.S. Navy's nuclear-powered submarines have also been passed along.

While export cases and economic espionage comprise most of the China-related intelligence prosecutions in recent years, there have been a few notable instances of traditional espionage, among them the Shriner case and that of Tai Shen Kuo, a Louisiana businessman who obtained information from two federal government employees that he passed to China.

It all fits into what some experts call China's "vacuum cleaner" approach to information-collection: Catch whatever you can.

"It's a little like ... the cancer that you don't know your body has," said Michelle Van Cleave, another former National Counterintelligence Executive. "You don't know that you're in trouble until it manifests itself in ways that really, really hurt you."

■ ■ ■
"If you have customers in mainland China, please let us know if we could be of any help. In China, it seems impossible for most companies to buy directly from US. We can act as middlemen for you."

It was 1996 and Zhen Zhou "Alex" Wu, a one-time schoolteacher in his native China who later studied at Harvard, was e-mailing a pitch for his business: A company dedicated to selling electronics components to Chinese customers. Based in Shenzhen, China, the company, Chitron, opened a single U.S. office in Waltham, Massachusetts, to acquire desired technology.

The Massachusetts firm, federal authorities now say, was merely a front to facilitate the export of defense technology from U.S. manufacturers to Chinese institutes related to the military. Wu now sits in a federal prison after being sentenced in January to eight years for conspiring to export restricted technologies illegally.

According to the Department of Defense, the exported items are "vital for Chinese military electronic warfare, military radar, fire control, military guidance and control equipment, and satellite communications." Also included: parts "that the People's Liberation Army actively seeks to acquire."

The use of front companies, or private firms that may also do legitimate business, is a common way that China seeks information, said Pelak, who in 2007 was appointed the Justice Department's first national export control coordinator, focusing on illegal export of munitions and sensitive technology. Prosecutions have since gone up, and today two-thirds of federal illegal export cases involve either China or Iran.

Take the case of William Chi-Wai Tsu, an electrical engineer serving a three-year prison sentence for illegally shipping several hundred thumbnail-size integrated circuits to a Beijing company called Dimagit Science & Technology. Investigators said the circuits have a variety of applications, including use in sophisticated communications and military radar systems.

Among Dimagit's clients: a research institute affiliated with the state-owned China Aerospace Science and Technology Corp. Dimagit's catalog, according to court records, promised: "We unswervingly take providing the motherland with ... electronic technical support to revitalize the national defense industry as our mission."

Court records describe how Tsu went about acquiring restricted parts: He created a fictitious company and used the California address of a friend for shipping. He then provided false end-user statements to American electronics distributors, promising that the parts he sought were not for export but for domestic use, specifically a project with Cisco Systems. If a distributor pressed Tsu, he would claim that non-disclosure agreements prevented him from providing more detail.

Similar tactics were used in a case still awaiting sentencing in Seattle, Washington. Lian Yang, a former software engineer at Microsoft, pleaded guilty in late March to attempting to buy restricted technology for a "partner" in China—specifically 300 radiation-hardened programmable semicon-

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FOCUS

CHINESE

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ductor devices that are used in satellites. In conversations with a confidential FBI source, Yang suggested creating a fake U.S. company to list as the end-user.

Yang was arrested last Dec. 3 after he handed \$20,000 to undercover agents in exchange for five of the devices. His sentencing is set for June 30.

Prosecutors argued in court papers that the offense "amounted to a form of espionage on behalf of" China.

However, some defense attorneys counter that these export cases are not espionage at all or even deliberate attempts to circumvent U.S. laws, but rather an outgrowth of confusing policies and, perhaps, overzealous prosecutors.

In the Chitron case, appeals lawyers for Alex Wu insist U.S. export regulations do not make clear enough what can and cannot be exported legally.

"Wu and others at his firm were not equipped and did not have the training needed to understand this country's extremely complicated export control laws," said his lawyer, Michael Schneider.

Stephanie Siegmann, the assistant U.S. attorney who prosecuted the case, responded that evidence clearly showed that Wu did understand the restrictions. One spreadsheet found on his computer was titled, "GP (Gross Profit) for USA Restricted Military Parts." Among the parts exported: phase shifters used in military radar systems.

"With such equipment," the Defense Department's Defense Technology Security Administration concluded, "China could defeat U.S. weapon systems."

■ ■ ■ ■

This year, retired FBI agent I.C. Smith gave a speech called "China's Mole" at the International Spy Museum in Washington, D.C. It was about a man who landed a job with the Central Intelligence Agency and later turned out to be a spy for China.

He was referring to one of the most damaging Chinese espionage cases of all time: the infiltration of Larry Chin, who in 1986 admitted to spying for China during his almost three decades with the CIA. As a former Chinese counterintelligence supervisor, Smith helped investigate Chin, and he was stunned to learn of the 5½-year recruitment of Glenn Shriver and China's "run at the front door" of America's pre-eminent intelligence agency.

"The Chinese," Smith said, "still have the capacity to surprise."

How did they do it in Shriver's case? Standing before a federal judge on a blustery day in January, Shriver tried to explain how he went down the path to betrayal.

"It started out fairly innocuous," he recalled. During a college study-abroad program in Shanghai, he was taken with Chinese culture and became proficient in



In this Nov. 23, 1985 file picture, Larry Wu-Tai Chin, a retired CIA analyst, arrives at U.S. Magistrates Court in Alexandria, Virginia.

Mandarin. After graduating from Grand Valley State University in Michigan in 2004, he returned to China to look for work.

Shriver was just 22 years old when, in October 2004, he first met a woman in Shanghai called "Amanda." According to court documents, he had responded to an English-language ad looking for scholars of East Asian studies to write political papers. He wrote one about U.S.-China relations regarding North Korea and Taiwan, and was paid \$120.

"Amanda" later asked Shriver if he would be interested in meeting some other people, two men he came to know as "Mr. Wu" and "Mr. Tang."

As outlined in court documents and Shriver's own statements, their conversations, at first, focused on developing a "friendship." The men asked Shriver what type of work he was interested in and said that if he planned to seek a job with a U.S. government agency, "we can be close friends." Had he ever thought about working for the U.S. State Department or, perhaps, the CIA? "That would be pretty good," they told him.

"Only one time was I told that they would like secrets," Shriver told the judge.

Six months after first meeting "Amanda," Shriver applied for a job with the U.S. State Department. Although he failed the foreign service exam, the intelligence officers paid him \$10,000. A year later, in April 2006, he took the exam a second time but again failed. He was nevertheless paid \$20,000.

Then, in June 2007, Shriver applied for a position in the clandestine branch of the CIA. A few months later, he asked the Chinese intelligence officers for \$40,000 for his efforts.

During all this time, friends and family, Shriver's mother, especially, thought he was just trying to figure out what to do with his life. He talked about

becoming a police officer or joining the Peace Corps. Eventually he returned overseas, this time to Korea, where he taught English and got engaged.

No one knew he was continuing to communicate with his Chinese handler, "Amanda."

In June 2010, Shriver underwent a series of final security screening interviews at the CIA in Virginia. A week later, he was arrested—U.S. officials would not disclose what led them to him—and his clandestine life unraveled.

"Nobody knew. Nobody," said his mother, Karen Chavez. "He was a good kid. ... I don't know what he was thinking."

The closest her son came to an explanation was when he told the sentencing judge: "I think I was motivated by greed."

In a telephone interview from prison in April, Shriver tried to expand on that.

"When you're 23 years old living in a very fun city, you almost get addicted to money," he told the AP. "After a while it's kind of like: OK, I'm kind of up on what these guys are doing. But by then it's just money getting thrown at you. I'm just like ... I can apply to this, get some money and then just continue on with my life."

Shriver pleaded guilty to conspiracy to communicate national defense information and is serving a four-year prison term.

It is true that he was, after all, never in a position to do any real spying. No harm done? That may depend on how you look at it.

"This case shows an aggressive attempt by (China) to recruit an American citizen and attempt to place him in one of the nation's premier intelligence agencies," said Neil MacBride, the U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, whose office has handled a number of China-related intelligence cases.

"Foreign intelligence services are watching," he said, "and they're looking for any weakness they can identify and exploit."

Environment

Plan, prepare, then plant a tree

By KATHY VAN MULLEKOM
DAILY PRESS (NEWPORT NEWS, VA.)

Before planting a tree make sure you know how to do it properly, advise tree experts.

The way you plant a tree governs how it grows or dies. For example, girdling roots strangle a tree, and roots planted too deeply suffocate a tree.

Here's how to correctly plant a tree, courtesy of the International Society of Arboriculture and the website TreesAreGood.com:

PREPARE THE PERFECT HOLE

Dig the hole two to three times the width of the root ball. Do not dig deeper than root ball depth. Make the sides of the hole slant gradually outward.

■ For bare root trees, neatly cut away any broken or damaged roots. Soak the roots for a few hours prior to planting to allow them to absorb water.

■ Container-grown trees should have the plastic or metal containers completely removed. Carefully cut through any circling roots. Remove the top half of pressed peat/paper containers.

■ Balled and Burlapped ("B&B") trees should have all of the ropes cut. Pull the burlap at least one third of the way down. Slit remaining burlap to encourage root growth. If in a wire basket, cut away the top of

the basket.

PLANT THE TREE

Gently place the tree in the hole. Partially backfill with the soil from the hole, water to settle the soil, then finish back-filling the hole. Tamp the soil gently, but do not step on the root ball.

Planting pointers

■ Remove tags and labels.

■ Do not stake unless the tree has a large crown or the planting is situated on a site where wind or people may push the tree over. Stake for a maximum of one year.

Chic looks for less cash

By TERRI BENNETT
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

Spring is here, and with it come weddings, outdoor events, and the need for a few new outfits. However, buying the season trendiest looks takes a toll on the planet with the manufacturing, shipping, and storing. And, it takes a toll on our pocketbooks. Want to be eco-friendly and fashionable at the same time? Here are my top five ways to get a designer outfit that will help you save some green.

1. Swap Parties

Clothing swap parties are taking place everywhere these days. A simple emailed invite gets guests on board. Then, people bring a minimum number of gently used clothes they no longer wear to a meeting spot. The clothes are sorted by type—accessories, dresses, jeans, etc. No money is exchanged so people can easily "shop" and socialize at the same time. Leftover clothes can be taken to an organization to help people in need, such as a battered women's shelter.

2. Rent Them!

Why buy when you can rent?

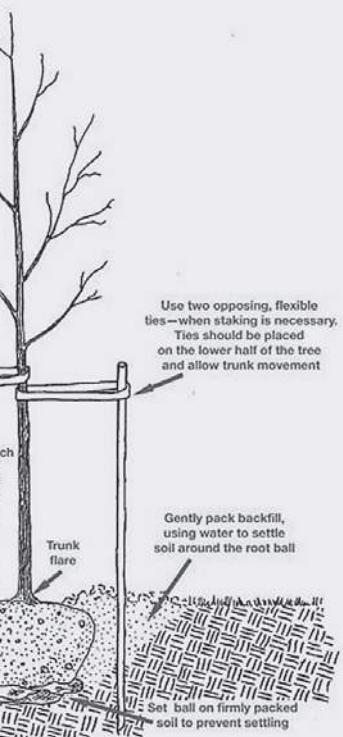
Instead of shelling out big bucks for an expensive dress, jacket, or even purse you'll use only occasionally, consider renting them. There are many online sites that feature everything a fashionista could want—at a fraction of the cost. Check out DoYourPart.com/columns for a list of some of my favorite rental spots.

3. Consider Consignment Shops & eBay

Consignment shops are a win-win for everyone involved. People can take their good clothes to consignment shops and make a little money. It's also a perfect destination for people looking to get a designer piece of clothing for a much more manageable price tag. eBay works in a similar way. You can browse through thousands of articles of clothing and only bid what you feel comfortable spending. It's also an easy way to get your hands on prized vintage finds.

4. Go to Goodwill

You've done it and so have others! Just think how many times you've donated an article of brand new clothing to a Goodwill donation site. Many Goodwill stores are now set



■ Prune only the damaged branches.

■ Soak the soil well, making sure no air pockets form between roots. Wait until next year to fertilize.

■ Spread two inches of mulch over the planting area, but do not place it up against the trunk.

■ Be sure the root ball has plenty of water throughout the year.

For additional information on planting and other tree care topics, or to find a local ISA Certified Arborist, visit www.treesaregood.com.

up to look and operate like a department store but without the steep prices. You can find name brand clothing and accessories for just a few bucks each. And, some still have the original price tag still on it.

5. Repair and Re-purpose

Could the designer outfit you desire actually be in your closet right now? Whether it's a pair of pumps with a wobbly heel or a piece of clothing with an unfortunate rip, you might be better off repairing than buying something new. Fixing something you already love will help you give your wardrobe a second life and it's always the more economical way to go.

See? There's no reason you can't look good while doing good. It's another way you can Do Your Part to show off your sense of style without paying a high price for it.

Terri Bennett is a veteran TV meteorologist, syndicated columnist, and host of DoYourPart.com where you can find everyday green living ideas that are better for you and the planet. Send questions to terri@doyourpart.com.

Life & Style

Dean Karnazes' run across America ends in victory

NEW YORK (AP)—Megamarathoner Dean Karnazes crossed the finish line Tuesday morning, completing a remarkable run that had taken him from sea to shining sea.

Viewers of "Live! With Regis and Kelly" saw Karnazes arrive at the talk show's Manhattan studio more than two months after he set off from California's Disneyland on Feb. 25. Accompanied by a clutch of fellow runners on this final leg of his cross-country odyssey, he ran down Columbus Avenue waving an American flag, turned left onto 67th Street, and paused with a high school marching band and a throng of spectators beneath a burst of confetti. Then he dashed into the studio's red-carpeted entrance, where his wife Julie and 13-year-old son Nick held the tape that marked his long-awaited finish.

He hugged co-hosts Regis Philbin and Kelly Ripa and greeted the cheering studio audience. He urged everyone to chase their dreams, as he has.

"It's been a dream of mine for 75 days to be standing right here," he said, wearing a wide grin and clearly feeling pumped. "God bless America!"

Go get 'em, people!"

Teamed up with "Live" for his run across America, the 48-year-old Karnazes has been promoting fitness for Americans and young people in particular. The show regularly aired updates, tracking his progress along a route that covered nearly 3,000 miles and took him through 16 states and the District of Columbia.

Other notable stats from his pilgrimage:

- an average of 40 to 50 miles run daily (from eight to 15 hours daily).

- more than 50 pairs of shoes exhausted.

- \$177,865 collected during a dozen 5K fun runs Karnazes led en route, to benefit Action for Healthy Kids, a nonprofit and volunteer organization that fights childhood obesity and undernourishment.

Moments after "Live" was off the air, Karnazes took a break in the show's green room, where, still damp from a spray of celebratory champagne, he enjoyed his first sip of post-ultra-marathon water.

"Running 3,000 miles doesn't tell the whole of it," he said, trying to sum up his experience. "The weather

conditions, the mountains, the desert—I mean, it was just intense."

Karnazes spent Monday night in Fort Lee, N.J., across the Hudson River from New York. Then come morning, he had polished off an "easy" 9-miler.

The best moment of the run?

"Coming into the studio," he said, "coming in here, seeing my family, finally knowing I actually made it. So many days I was questioning it: Can it really be done?"

The San Francisco Bay area native came to the challenge seemingly well-qualified. His lengthy list of endurance derring-do includes this amazing feat: 50 marathons run in 50 days in all 50 states. He not only is a mega-marathoner, but also a fitness advocate and author whose latest book is "Run! 26.2 Stories of Bliss and Bliss."

The worst moment of the run?

"The end of the first day," Karnazes replied instantly. "I was destroyed. I thought, 'How am I going to do this for 74 more days?' It had been so easy to talk about it, but after that first day it hit me: the enormity of what we were about to undertake. Then I told myself, 'Get up in the morning and try your best. You may or may not make it, but your commitment is to try your very hardest.'"

"Live" executive producer Michael Gelman said he had thought Karnazes was up to the task, even while nursing a few nagging doubts of his own.

"Dean was so confident when we first brought the idea to him," Gelman recalled. "He said, 'That's a great idea! No problem! Let's do it!' If I'd known he was doubting himself I would have been even more nervous."

"I was afraid, but I also believed in him. And I was right," Gelman said with a laugh. "Thank goodness."

Karnazes heads home on Wednesday, and he can put his feet up for the journey—he'll be flying, not running—while, proudly, he ponders where he has been.

"It's a great, vast country, and you fly over it and look down and wonder, 'What's down there?' I know what's down there," he said. "I just ran right across it. I saw it first-hand."



Marathon runner Dean Karnazes arrives at the "Live! with Regis and Kelly" studio after completing his Run Across America, in New York, Tuesday, May 10, 2011.

Lady Gaga to debut songs on online game FarmVille

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Lady Gaga is turning to an unusual method to cultivate her fan base: The pop icon is releasing songs from her new album on a section of the popular online game "FarmVille" before they can be heard anywhere else.

The singer, known for her outrageous styles and hits such as "Poker Face" and "Bad Romance," will allow singles from "Born This Way" (due out May 23) to be heard within a specially-created farm, called "GagaVille," in the game. Players will have to complete tasks to hear one exclusive new track per day streamed online from May 17 to 19. Starting on May 20, players will be also able to unlock additional songs that aren't exclusive.

"FarmVille" is one of the most popular games on Facebook, played by about 46 million people worldwide each month. It lets players tend to virtual farms by harvesting crops, tending to livestock and decorating cottages to earn points. Its creator, Zynga, makes money by selling virtual items, such as seeds or cows or farm sheds, in the game.

"GagaVille" will be short-lived. Zynga says it's running the special only until May 26 to celebrate the debut of "Born This Way." The company wouldn't say whether Lady Gaga picked "FarmVille" to debut her songs or if Zynga concocted this unusual promo-



Singer Lady Gaga poses for photos during a press conference to promote her new album "Born this way" Mexico City, Friday, May 6, 2011.

through its iHeartRadio service, which will pop up once players unlock the special songs.

"GagaVille" is a sign that artists are going where the fans are, and that is on Facebook, Twitter and playing online games. By being part of the Gaga deal, Clear Channel is trying to ensure it won't be left behind. As part of the promotion, the company plans to announce special codes on 148 of its radio stations that will unlock Gaga-inspired virtual items in "FarmVille."

"We know that our listeners are spending a lot of time with social games, and we're going to be wherever our listeners are. So this kind of social, immersive experience is a great way for us to further engage with our listeners," said Bob Pittman, chairman of media and entertainment platforms for Clear Channel.

This is the first time Zynga has received exclusive tracks from artists in a game and the first time it's created a whole farm dedicated to an artist. In December, the company partnered with Dr. Dre to release a track from his album "Detox" in the game "Mafia Wars."

The San Francisco startup is no stranger to Lady Gaga. Earlier this year the artist (along with Dr. Dre and others) helped Zynga raise money to support earthquake relief in Japan and she donated \$1.5 million of her own money to add to what players raised.

*In Loving Memory of
Jesus Fujihira Santos*

Lovingly Known as "Chumbai"

April 29, 1964—May 09, 2011

His Memories will forever live in the hearts of his:

Wife: Eulalia Carreon Santos

Children: Jessamin C. Santos and Jessie Joseph C. Santos

Mother In-Law: Rita D. Carreon

In His New Life, he now joins his:

Father: Selvino Terlaje Santos

Mother: Carmen Atalig Fujihira Santos

Reared Parents: Ramon and Rosa S. Aguon

Father In-Law: Julian O. Carreon

Brother: Jose F. Santos

Godparents: Jose Taitano Pinaula and Ana Pangelinan

He will also be missed by his brothers, sisters, and In-Laws:

Crispina F. Santos and Nicolas Sali, Patricia S. and Yus Man Sani (Keina Jewel, Putra, Sriyani Putri), Vicente F. and Felicitas Santos (Carmen Michelle, Vincent Jr., Kaliya), Victor S. Muna, Manuel Aguon, John and Margaret D. Tudela, Benita D. Carreon, Arceli and Dolores T. Carreon, Juanita and Mariano Manalac, Rosalinda and +Ricardo Manaloto, Joey and Flories Carreon, Teresita and Fernando David, Antonio and Delfina Carreon, Eduardo and Aurora Carreon, Lourdes and Justo Rivera

He is additionally survived by numerous nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins and godchildren.

Mass of Intention are being celebrated each morning at Kristo Rai Church at 6:00am. Funeral services will be held on Wednesday, May 18, 2011.

His remains will be escorted from Nuestra Señora dela Paz Memorial Chapel to Kristo Rai Church at 7:30am. Responso Service will be at 8:00am followed by Holy Rosary

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00am. Cremation Service will take place at Our Lady of Peace Crematorium, Windward Hills, Guam on Thursday, May 19, 2011 at 9:00am.

Disposition will be at the family residence in Papago.

**Family visitation will be at Nuestra Señora dela Paz on Sunday, May 15, 2011
from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

Please join us in prayers,

Eulalia "Lily" Carreon Santos, Children and Family

Britney Spears subject of biographic comic book

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Britney Spears is no stranger to music buyers and concert-goers. Now, her star power will be on display with web-slingers, shape shifters and superheroes.

The pop music star is the subject of a new one-shot comic book courtesy of Bluewater Productions Inc.'s ongoing "Fame" series that has seen it profile other celebrities, including Lady Gaga and actors Robert Pattinson and Kristen Stewart, among others. The publisher has also done comic book bios of Sarah Palin, Hilary Rodham Clinton

and President Barack Obama, and plans one about Donald Trump, too.

The Spears comic will focus on her rise to stardom, her documented private life and her efforts to be understood, said Patrick McCray, who wrote the issue.

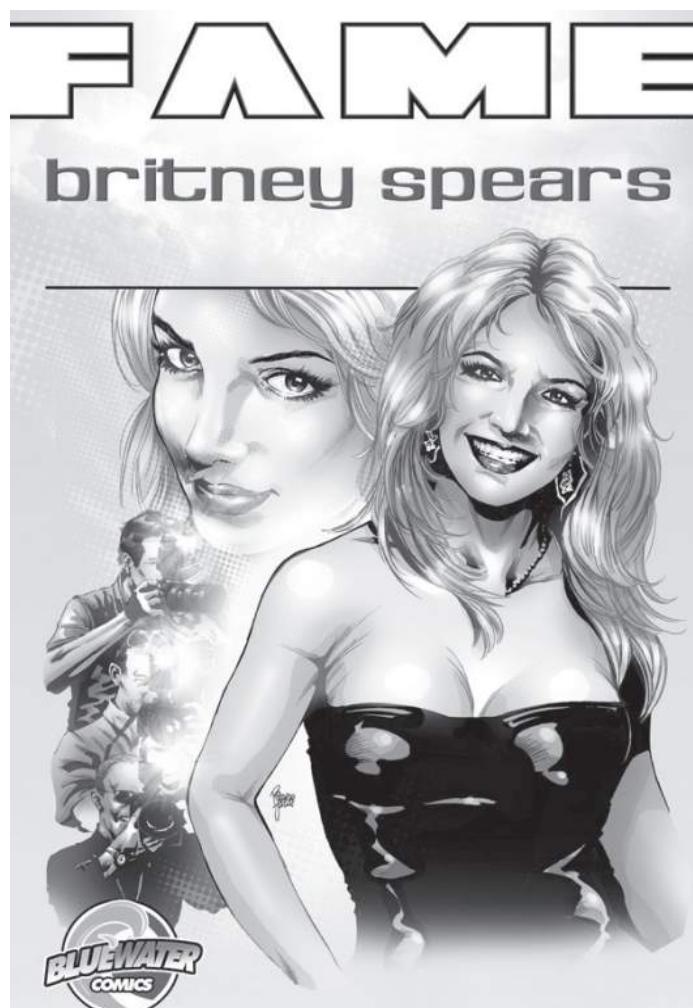
"She is far more complicated than most people realize. No matter what preconceptions you have about her, there will always be more layers and surprises," he said in a statement. "Beyond the performer, there is a real human being there, struggling for a real life, struggling to connect with her art, and

struggling to be understood."

Bluewater publisher Darren G. Davis said Spears' life reflected the core of the company's "Fame" line of biography titles has tried to achieve.

"She was created in the Internet Age to be put on a pedestal, but no one can stand the glaring lights of celebrity that intensely," he said. "The title seeks to find the person within."

The 32-page issue, illustrated by Ricardo Jaime, comes out Wednesday in comic book stores and online retailers.



AP
In this comic book cover released by Bluewater Productions Inc., an issue of "Fame" featuring singer Britney Spears, is shown.

TV networks seek interview with woman held captive

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—The coming publication of a memoir by the California woman who was kidnapped as a girl and held for 18 years has broadcasters scrambling to become the first to get an interview with her.

Simon & Schuster announced Monday the memoir of Jaycee Dugard will go on sale July 12.

Titled "A Stolen Life," it will cover Dugard's abduction and life with Phillip and Nancy Garrido, the couple who have pleaded guilty to kidnapping and rape.

Dugard has not decided yet whether she will do interviews surrounding the book, according to Nancy Seltzer, her spokeswoman.

If she does, it would break the silence she has maintained since releasing a home video to ABC News last year.

"What's conveyed on television is her emotion, the look on her face," Seltzer said of a possible network TV interview. "With great and true respect to the printed word, it's not the same."

Seltzer declined to reveal which networks were making pitches. She is asking the journalists to provide details on what they would ask Dugard.

Dugard was kidnapped from her South Lake Tahoe home at age 11 and resurfaced in August 2009. Now 31, she has maintained her privacy while living in Northern California with her mother and her two daughters fathered by Phillip Garrido.

Seltzer said Dugard wrote "A Stolen Life" on her own, without help from a ghost writer. Along with hardcover and electronic book editions, Simon & Schuster is producing an audio book narrated by Dugard.

Fergie says royal wedding snub was 'difficult'

CHICAGO (AP)—Not receiving an invitation to the royal wedding was "difficult," Sarah Ferguson tells Oprah Winfrey in an interview scheduled to air Wednesday.

The Duchess of York says on "The Oprah Winfrey Show" that she went to Thailand instead of attending last month's marriage of Prince William to Kate Middleton, now the Duchess of Cambridge.

"It was so difficult," Ferguson said in quotes provided by Harpo Productions. "Because I wanted to be there with my girls and to—and to be getting them dressed and to go as a family."

Ferguson's daughters, Princess Beatrice and Princess Eug-

enie, attended the wedding with their father and Ferguson's former husband, Prince Andrew. Ferguson said she spoke with Prince Andrew and her daughters throughout that morning.

"He made me feel very part of the day on April the 29th," Ferguson said.

But Ferguson, who last spring talked to Winfrey about being caught on video offering access to Prince Andrew for \$724,000, went on to say she thought it "was quite right they didn't invite me."

"I felt that I ostracized myself by my behavior, by the past, by living with all the regrets of my mistakes," Ferguson said. "That I sort of wore

a hair shirt and beat myself up most of the day thinking and regretting why did I make such a mistake?"

Ferguson also discussed Prince William's mother, the late Princess Diana.

"I think Diana would be so proud of her son," Ferguson said.

"And I really love the feeling that sort of Diana and I both weren't there. But I'm here to say how proud she would have been and Kate looked utterly beautiful."

Ferguson's new series "Finding Sarah" is to premiere in June on Winfrey's new cable station, OWN. Winfrey is ending her talk show May 25 after 25 years.



AP
In this photo taken May 6, 2011 provided by Harpo Productions, Inc., talk-show host Oprah Winfrey talks with Sarah Ferguson, the Duchess of York, during taping of "The Oprah Winfrey Show" at Harpo Studios in Chicago.

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Chris Hemsworth, Natalie Portman
Action • Rated PG 13



Something Borrowed

Friday & Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:25 9:40
Sunday 1:25 4:25 7:25
Mon thru Thurs 4:25 7:25

Kate Hudson, Ginnifer Goodwin
Comedy drama • Rated PG 13



Fast Five

Friday & Saturday 1:15 4:15 7:15 10:00
Sunday 1:15 4:15 7:15
Mon thru Thurs 4:15 7:15

Vin Diesel, Paul Walker
Action • Rated PG 13



Prom

Friday & Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:30
Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00
Mon thru Thurs 4:00 7:00

Aimee Teegarden, Thomas McDonell
Comedy drama • Rated PG



Madea's Big Happy Family

Friday & Saturday 1:10 4:10 7:10 9:50
Sunday 1:10 4:10 7:10
Mon thru Thurs 4:10 7:10

Tyler Perry, Loretta Devine
Comedy drama • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

As the son of Odin (Anthony Hopkins), the king of the Norse gods, Thor (Chris Hemsworth) is soon to inherit the throne of Asgard from his aging father. However, on the day that he is to be crowned, Thor reacts with brutality when the god's enemies, the Frost Giants, enter the palace in violation of their treaty. As punishment, Odin banishes Thor to Earth. While Loki (Tom Hiddleston), Thor's brother, plots mischief in Asgard, Thor, now stripped of his powers, faces his greatest threat yet.

Synopsis

Screenwriter Jennie Snyder Urman adapts author Emily Giffin's freshman novel to the screen with this romantic drama directed by Luke Greenfield. Darcy (Kate Hudson) is best friends with Rachel (Ginnifer Goodwin), a successful New York City attorney. When Rachel forms a romantic connection with Darcy's fiancé, the fragile threads that connect the trio are tested. — Jason Buchanan, Rovi

Synopsis

Director Justin Lin (The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift, Fast & Furious) returns to the helm for this adrenaline-charged sequel reuniting series stars Vin Diesel and Paul Walker for their biggest thrill ride yet. With the police in hot pursuit and wanted fugitive Dom (Diesel) in tow, Brian (Walker) and Mia (Jordan Brewster) make their way to Rio, and realize they've run out of luck. In order to earn their freedom, they'll have to pull off their biggest job yet.

Beastly

Friday & Saturday 1:30 4:30 7:30 9:55
Sunday 1:30 4:30 7:30
Mon thru Thurs 4:30 7:30

Alex Pettyfer, Vanessa Hudgens
Fantasy • Rated PG 13

Rio

Friday & Saturday 1:20 4:20 7:20 9:35
Sunday 1:20 4:20 7:20
Mon thru Thurs 4:20 7:20

Anne Hathaway, will.i.am
Children's/family • Rated G

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Another celeb banished from 'Dancing' ballroom

NEW YORK (AP)—Romeo is saying goodbye to the “Dancing With the Stars” ballroom.

The actor and rapper (once known as Lil’ Romeo) was dismissed Tuesday from the ABC dance contest.

Romeo’s exit was somewhat of a surprise for those who expected rival Ralph Macchio to get the hook after a leg injury hurt his performances on Monday’s edition.

After learning his fate, Romeo said the show had changed his life. He explained that before he entered the competition, “I was terrified of dancing. I didn’t even dance at my own prom.”

On Monday, Romeo had won praise from judge Len Goodman, who reminded him that a week earlier, “I said to you, ‘Up your game,’ and that’s just what you have done.”

Judges’ scores are combined with viewer votes to determine which celebrity is ousted each week. Romeo joins previously dismissed dancers Chris Jericho, Sugar Ray Leonard, Wendy Williams, Mike Catherwood, Petra Nemcova and Kendra Wilkinson. The remaining contestants—Macchio, along with Kirstie Alley, Chelsea Kane and Hines Ward—will battle it out in next week’s semifinals.



AP
In this publicity image released by ABC, Romeo, right, and his partner Chelsie Hightower perform on the celebrity dance competition series “Dancing with the Stars,” on Monday, May 2, 2011 in Los Angeles.

Neil Patrick Harris to host Tony Awards again

NEW YORK (AP)—Neil Patrick Harris will return as host for the upcoming Tony Awards.

Producers of the show announced Tuesday that the star of the sitcom “How I Met Your Mother” and a stage veteran would take over from former “Will & Grace” actor Sean Hayes, who was last year’s host.

Harris joked that producers of the show had borrowed the rigging equipment from the troubled “Spider-Man” musical. “What could possibly go wrong?” he asked.

This time, the ceremony hon-

oring the best on Broadway will be at the Beacon Theater in Manhattan’s Upper West Side after several years at Radio City

Musical Hall. The awards will be handed out June 12 in a telecast aired on CBS.

Harris, 37, has starred in three Broadway productions, including “Assassins,” “Proof,” opposite Anne Heche, and as the

exuberant master of ceremonies in “Cabaret.”

He recently joined Stephen Colbert, Christina Hendricks and Patti LuPone in the New York Philharmonic’s production of “Company.”

Harris hosted the 2009 Emmy Awards the same year he hosted the Tonys. The last time Harris hosted the Tonys, the audience was up 19 percent from the previous year.

The Nielsen Co. said last year’s show was seen by about 7 million people, down 6 percent from the 2009 audience.



Harris

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Winfrey plans 2-episode interview with James Frey

CHICAGO (AP)—Oprah Winfrey’s interview with author James Frey will stretch over two episodes during the final full week of her talk show. The shows will air May 16 and 17, more than five years after Winfrey accused Frey on live television of lying in one of his books. During a short promotional clip on Tuesday’s episode of “The Oprah Winfrey Show” an announcer deemed it “the biggest controversy in Oprah show history.” Winfrey chose Frey’s substance abuse story “A Million Little Pieces,” for her book club in September 2005, making it a million-seller. Frey subsequently acknowledged on Winfrey’s show in January 2006 that he had lied in the book. Winfrey told him she felt duped and that he had betrayed millions of readers. Winfrey’s show ends May 25 after 25 years.

France’s first lady will skip Cannes film festival

PARIS (AP)—France’s first lady Carla Bruni-Sarkozy said Tuesday she will not attend the Cannes film festival for “personal and professional” reasons but refused to say whether her absence means she is pregnant as French media have suggested. Bruni-Sarkozy has every reason to be present at Cannes’ opening Wednesday: the

Woody Allen movie that she plays in, “Midnight in Paris,” kicks off the festival. The former supermodel and songstress confirmed in an RTL radio interview that she won’t be there, saying “I really regret it” but “I unfortunately can’t do it for personal and also for professional reasons.” French media have speculated that Bruni-Sarkozy may be pregnant, but she has declined to discuss the issue. “It’s a private question,” she said when asked in the RTL interview whether she is expecting a child. “I have to protect my private life, my family life as much as possible.”

Critics’ Circle names ‘Book of Mormon’ top musical

NEW YORK (AP)—The New York Drama Critics’ Circle has voted “Good People” the best play of the season, “Jerusalem” the best foreign play and “The Book of Mormon” the season’s best musical. The group on Monday also handed out special citations to the revival of “The Normal Heart,” Mark Rylance for his dual performances in “La Bete” and “Jerusalem,” and for the direction, design and puppetry of “War Horse.” The Circle is composed of drama critics from daily newspapers, magazines, wire services and websites based in the New York metropolitan area. While the vote for best play went to four ballots, the musical category was quickly decided, with “The Book of Mormon” winning 17 of the 24 votes cast.

Depp talks Keith Richards, possible ‘Pirates’ 5

LOS ANGELES (AP)—“Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides” is still weeks away from opening, but Johnny Depp and producer Jerry Bruckheimer are already thinking about a fifth “Pirates” film.

So what would the 47-year-old actor need to transform himself into the rum-swilling, swashbuckling Capt. Jack Sparrow again?

“Essentially the same ingredients that have gone into each and every one, especially this one,” he says. “I would be in if it was right, for sure.”

Bruckheimer is already at work on a fifth “Pirates” script. But Depp also has other projects on his plate, including a cameo in the big-screen adaptation of the 1980s TV hit that made him a star, “21 Jump Street.”

He’d heard rumors about the film before being approached for the role, “then it finally came up and the dates were right and it was a gas,” he says. “It was a real great experience and I was happy to do it.”

He also has “The Rum Diary” set for release in October, and he’ll soon get to work on “The Lone Ranger” with three-time “Pirates” director Gore Verbinski.

“We are in the throes of heavy-duty development, script development,” he says of “The Lone Ranger.” “It’s coming along very nicely. I think it’s going to be something we are going to be proud of.”

First, though, is the latest “Pirates” installment, which opens May 20 and reunites Depp with one of his heroes, Keith Richards.

“To be able to bring him back into the ‘Pirates’ fold, where he most certainly belongs, was a gas,” Depp says. “Just spending a couple days sharing a trailer, it was as close, I suppose, as being in a rock ‘n’ roll band with him as you can get.”

Schwarzenegger thanks family, friends for support

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Former California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has made his first public appearance since the announcement that he and his wife of 25 years, Maria Shriver, had separated.

Speaking Tuesday night at a Los Angeles event marking Israeli independence, Schwarzenegger thanked friends and family for an outpouring of support.

He said he and Shriver “both love each other very much” and they “are taking one day at a time.”

The two issued a joint statement Monday that they were living apart as they work on the future of their relationship and continue to parent their four children.

Schwarzenegger ended a seven-year term as California governor in January.

Wife, daughter gang up on dad over sleeping arrangements

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: Our daughter, “Julie,” came home for the weekend so we could meet her new boyfriend, “Scott.” He’s a delightful young man, and my daughter is clearly smitten.

When I suggested Scott sleep in the guest room, Julie and my wife gave me this perplexed look as though I’m from a different planet. In the end, I was deeply disappointed that they shared a bedroom. After 30 years of marriage, this created the first disagreement between my wife and me in a long time.

I’m no prude. My wife and I had our share of premarital mambo, but we always slept in separate rooms while visiting our families before we were married. It was about respect for our parents’ feelings.

Julie spends a lot of time with Scott’s family where they share a room. My wife is afraid if we don’t provide common accommodations in our home, our daughter will be less inclined to visit.

I welcome your thoughts, Abby. Is expecting some sense of propriety being a curmudgeonly father?

STUMPED AND TRUMPED IN OHIO

DEAR STUMPED AND TRUMPED: You didn’t mention how long Julie and Scott have been involved, or whether they’re living together—which might have had some bearing on this. However, I keep coming back to the fact that under your roof, guests should abide by your rules. If you prefer that unmarried couples sleep apart in your home, then your feelings should have been respected. And for your wife to wimp out for the reason you stated is just sad.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I work for a company that processes orders from a store at a local mall. I handle these orders and have run into an embarrassing problem. Our customers come from every imaginable ethnic background. When I take a look at some of the names on the work orders, I can’t even begin to pronounce them.

It’s my job to call these customers back to verify details and schedule installations, so what should I do? Is it more polite to try to sound out the name and wait to be corrected, or to apologize right off the bat and ask the proper pronunciation?

TONGUE-TIED IN ST. PAUL, MINN.

DEAR TONGUE-TIED: To lead off the conversation by stating that you don’t know how to pronounce someone’s name could be extremely off-putting. It would be better to sound it out, syllable by syllable, and try to pronounce it—adding, “If I have mispronounced your name, please correct me.” (It probably won’t be the first time the person has heard it.)

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have several old Bibles that are literally falling apart. What’s the proper way of disposing of Bibles? It seems wrong to just throw them in the trash or burn them.

ROBERT IN COLUMBUS, OHIO

DEAR ROBERT: The answer to your question depends upon the religion to which you belong. According to my experts, Protestants can dispose of an old Bible by giving it to someone or by throwing it away if they’re comfortable doing that—the paper and ink are not “holy.” Old Bibles can also be given to a Bible bookstore or Bible book society for refurbishing or disposal.

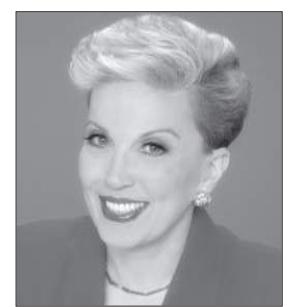
Catholics can either burn or bury old Bibles.

Jewish people should call a temple or Jewish cemetery and ask if it has a “genizah”—a special place to bury books with the name of God in them. (When the genizah is filled, it will be closed and buried.)

Persons of other religions should consult their religious authority governing the accepted manner of disposing of holy books.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby’s most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)



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| 1 Ambulance initials | 34 Insult (sl.) | 61 Back talk | 21 Soothing ointment | 22 Rose's love | 23 Affirmative action? | 27 Lubricate | 29 Spaghetti topper | 30 Wicked | 31 Take the bus | 33 Brewing gizmo | 35 Anatomical pouch | 38 Pitcher's stat | 40 Desert caravan | 43 Role for Michael Caine or Jude Law | 45 Weep loudly | 46 Furnace fuel | 47 Caspian feeder | 48 Beige | 49 Chic beach resort |
| 4 Snake's noise | 37 Big brawl | 39 Varnish ingredient | 1 Sprite | 2 Long March | 3 Winter-time missile | 4 Mingle | 5 — pinch | 6 1973 | 7 Divided | 8 Kook | 9 Song-writer | 10 First victim | 11 Sailing vessel | 12 PC linkup | 13 "Movin' —" ("The Jeffersons" theme) | 14 See need | 15 Tabletop soccer game | 16 — Paulo | 17 Carey or Barry-more |
| 8 Fine | 41 Lend a hand | 42 Coach Parseghian | 43 Rook | 44 Snooker | 45 Rook | 46 Snooker | 47 Rook | 48 Snooker | 49 Snooker | 50 Horde | 51 Killer whale | 52 Human dynamo | 53 Marx or Malden | 54 "American —" | 55 Meadow | 56 Hebrew month | 57 "American —" | 58 Meadow | 59 Hebrew month |
| 12 PC linkup | 13 "Movin' —" ("The Jeffersons" theme) | 14 See need | 15 Tabletop soccer game | 16 — Paulo | 17 Carey or Barry-more | 18 Pale | 19 Shot that misses completely | 20 Fish eggs | 21 Mandrill, e.g. | 22 Ambulance initials | 23 Snake's noise | 24 Suits — T | 25 With 14- Across, monkey's talk in an old silly song | 26 Greet the villain | 27 He's had some bad hare days | 28 Spring melody | 29 Fish eggs | 30 Horde | 31 Killer whale |
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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE MATTER OF PETITION FOR
GENERAL GUARDIANSHIP OF
LANDON BLAS'E
BENAVENTE CAMACHO
Minor Child,
by

KARATEL PHILLIP and
MYRNA BERKI PHILLIP,
Petitioners.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition to Appoint Legal Guardian for the above-named minor child by Karatel Phillip and Myrna Berki Phillip was filed with the above-entitled Honorable Court and is open for review at the office of the Clerk of the said Court in Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A HEARING of said petition for Guardianship will held at the above-entitled Honorable Court at Guma Hustis Building, Susupe, Saipan, NMI, before the Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja on the 26th day of May, 2011 at 10:30 a.m. or as soon as thereafter.

Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court
/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

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Bridge Capital, LLC is currently accepting applications for an IT Support/Marketing Position for its Garapan, Saipan office location.

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Have experience providing hardware and software support for Windows XP, Windows Vista, and Windows 7 system. (MAC OSX experience a plus)

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Interested candidates should email a resume and cover letter to js@bccnmi.com or submit at the Bridge Capital office.

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 7, 2011

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REPORTER

Minor wins doubles in Australia

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Rondo, Celtic on to beat Spa

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36 FRIDAY, JANUARY 7, 2011

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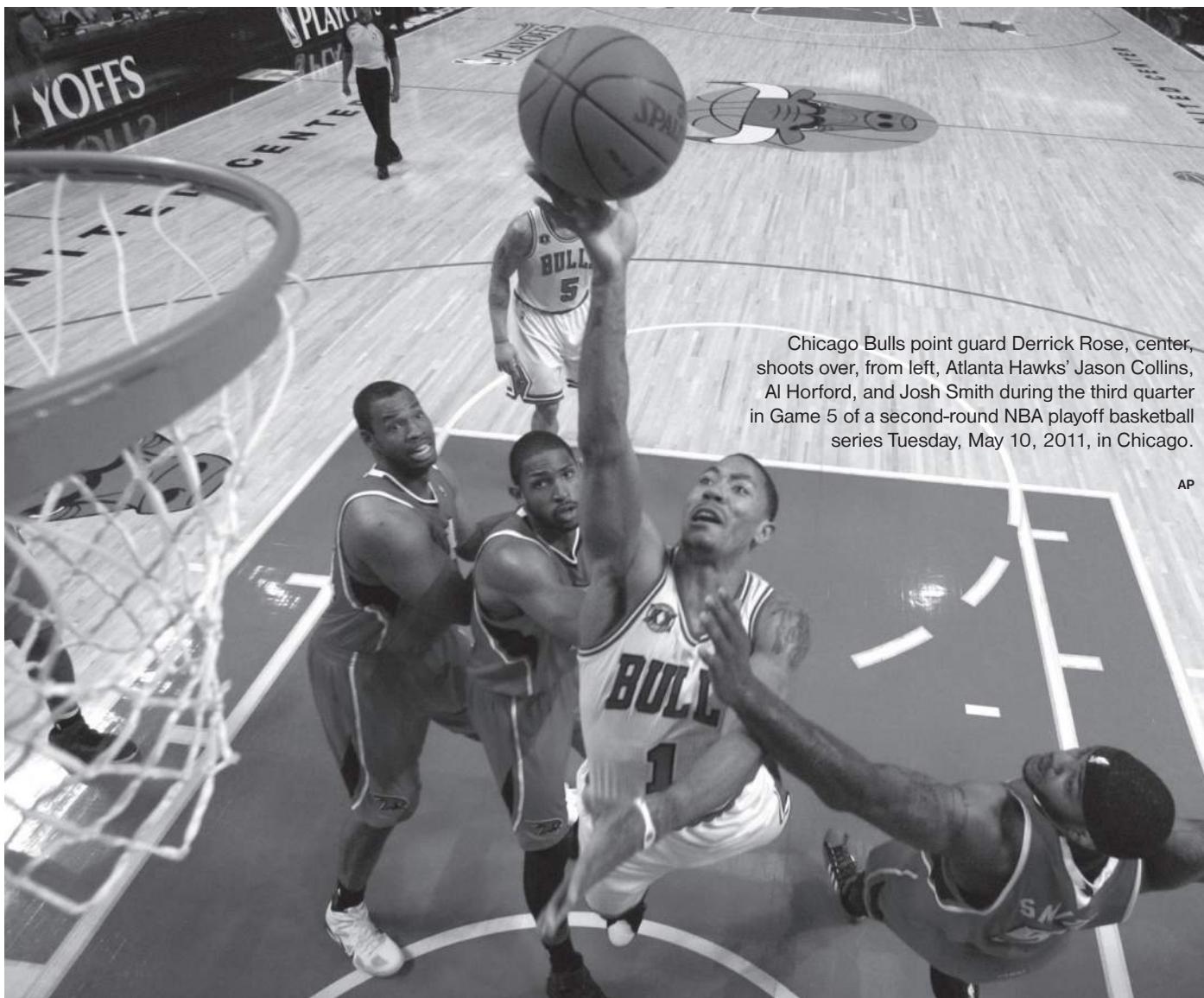
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Rose leads Bulls past Hawks, 95-83



Chicago Bulls point guard Derrick Rose, center, shoots over, from left, Atlanta Hawks' Jason Collins, Al Horford, and Josh Smith during the third quarter in Game 5 of a second-round NBA playoff basketball series Tuesday, May 10, 2011, in Chicago.

Miami Heat on the cusp of landing a Boston knockout

MIAMI (AP)—Their charter flight home from Boston landed around 3 a.m. Tuesday, and the Miami Heat were back at work less than 12 hours later.

Typically, such a late arrival would merit a day off.

Not now—not when on the cusp of knocking off the team that has pained Dwyane Wade, LeBron James and the Heat for so long.

Up 3-1 in their best-of-seven Eastern Conference semifinal series, the Heat will go for the clincher at home against the Celtics on Wednesday night. Miami grabbed control with a 98-90 overtime win in Boston on Monday night, and now stands one victory away from reaching the East finals for the first time since the 2006 championship run.

"This is not a team that you let your guard down against," Wade said.

"No way," instantly chimed in James, nodding as he stood on Wade's left.

It was not a long workout for the Heat on Tuesday, mostly film work and some light shooting. The Celtics took the day off, opting instead to gather around midday for their flight to South Florida, though it was certain that ailing players like Rajon Rondo—who remains hampered mightily by the after-effects of dislocating his elbow in Game 3—would be getting some treatment.

"I'll be fine," Rondo said. "I'm playing."

Celtics coach Doc Rivers was not available for comment Tuesday. The team had to cancel a planned early evening teleconference because of technical problems.

The Heat do not plan any changes to the starting lineup, coach Erik Spoelstra said, meaning Joel Anthony will remain at center to open the game and Zydrunas Ilgauskas will come off the bench, as will point guard Mario Chalmers behind first-stringer Mike Bibby.

Minutes after Game 4 ended, Spoelstra began telling his team that ending Boston's season would be its toughest challenge yet. He did not back down from that on Tuesday.

"We can expect their best," Spoelstra said. "We know we're getting their best effort and I'm sure they'll play well. We'll have to play better."

Wade and James, who combined for 63 points in Game 4, concurred. They became teammates, in part, to beat Boston after the Celtics thwarted James's plan to bring a title to Cleveland and dominated the Heat since 2007, including a five-game ousting of Miami in the opening round of last season's playoffs.

"This is like an Eastern Conference finals type-of-buildup series," Wade said. "And it's been played out that way."

Maligned much of the season late in close games, the Heat got contributions across the board to pull it out in Game 4. James made a 3-pointer—"A backbreaker," Celtics guard Ray Allen said later—inches away from the Boston bench to tie it at 84 with 2 minutes left in regulation. Wade's long jumper with 2:01 left in overtime was for a 92-86 lead and rendered Boston's crowd silent. And Chris Bosh sealed the win with 24 seconds left, tipping in James' miss to put Miami up by five.

"We executed well down the stretch defensively and offensively," said Heat forward James Jones, who made another key play by fouling Allen and taking away a potential Boston fast break with the game tied at 86 with 19 seconds left in regulation. "I think it was just our presence of mind, our determination. We had mistakes. We made some mistakes."

So did Boston.

The Celtics' miscues were far more noticeable down the stretch.

Rondo missed a layup with 1:11 left in regulation, misfiring on an easy chance to give Boston what would have been a two-point lead. Paul Pierce had to take a wild shot at the fourth-quarter buzzer after Allen and Kevin Garnett collided on a play that could have won the game for the Celtics and instead left them all shaking their heads.

In overtime, Boston had as many turnovers—four—as points.

"When our back is against the wall, that's when we show great resilience," Garnett said. "We'll see what we're made of."

If the Celtics lose, some sweeping changes may be on the way.

The core of the team likely will remain the same for at least one more season. But Rivers—whose contract is expiring at season's end—has often said the lure of spending more time with family is difficult to ignore.

And a loss may spell the end of the Shaquille O'Neal era.

He eclipsed the 50,000-minute mark for his career last month and time has clearly taken its toll on his body, so there will surely be widespread speculation that whenever Boston's season ends, the final buzzer for O'Neal's career may beckon as well.

But in the Boston locker room late Monday, all that mattered was winning Game 5 and extending the series.

"We've got to get one win right now," Pierce said. "That's the focus. ... It's all on the line."

CHICAGO (AP)—The Chicago Bulls were looking for someone, anyone, to provide a spark, and it figured that Derrick Rose would.

It was no shocker, either that Taj Gibson provided one, too.

Rose scored 33 points, Gibson scored all of his 11 in the fourth quarter, and the Bulls beat the Atlanta Hawks 95-83 in Game 5 of the Eastern Conference semifinals on Tuesday night to take a 3-2 lead.

Luol Deng added 23 points and Chicago let out a big sigh of relief.

"It's definitely fun playing against a good team," Rose said. "Coach always said we're going to have to walk through the fire together. Every series has tested us in every way, but I think that we're sticking together."

Game 6 is Thursday in Atlanta, and a win would put Chicago in the conference finals for the first time since Michael Jordan and Scottie Pippen wrapped up their second championship three-peat in 1998. They are in this position after dominating Atlanta in the fourth quarter 26-15, with Rose

matching Gibson's 11 points.

Rose showed why he is the league's youngest MVP, hitting 11 of 24 shots and finishing with nine assists. It was a big improvement over Game 4 when he needed 32 shots to score 34 points, and he was particularly effective down the stretch, attacking the rim.

"It forces the defense to collapse, leads to easy opportunities for others, it leads to some second shots," coach Tom Thibodeau said. "We want to be inside-out so I thought it was huge."

Atlanta's Jeff Teague came up big again filling in for the injured Kirk Hinrich, scoring 21 for the third time in this series, but the Hawks came up short in the end.

Josh Smith contributed 16 points. Joe Johnson 15, Zaza Pachulia 13 and Al Horford added 12 points and 10 rebounds.

"We were playing for everything," Horford said. "We have to regroup again and get ready for Thursday."

It hasn't been an easy post-season for the Bulls after they stormed to a league-leading 62 wins, with Indiana pushing them in the first round and the Hawks doing the same. Even so, they are poised to advance.

The Bulls led by as many as 15 points in the first quarter but were trailing 70-69 early in the fourth when they went on a 9-0 run.

Rose started it when he drove to his left for a layup, fed Gibson a no-look pass in transition for a three-point play and added a layup that made it 78-70.

Then, midway through the fourth, he drove for a three-point play that made it 85-76. Fans were screeching "MVP! MVP!" as he buried the free throw, and after Atlanta pulled within six, Chicago reeled eight straight to make it 93-79, with six points coming from Gibson.

"Taj is a good player," Rose said. "I think he really doesn't know how good he is."

The fourth quarter aside, it wasn't an easy night for the Bulls.

Considering Chicago got 15 points each from Rose and Deng in the first half and led by as many as 15, the Hawks were probably glad to be trailing 48-42 at half-time. They kept coming at the Bulls in the third quarter.

Things got particularly tense after a two-handed dunk by Smith cut Chicago's lead to 61-60 with just over 4 minutes

left in the period. He hung on the rim and Carlos Boozer gave him a forearm to the face, leading to a retaliatory shove from Smith and technical fouls for both players.

"I dunked the basketball and I go to turn and he just cleared me with an elbow to the jaw," Smith said. "Nobody is going to do that to me. I don't care who you are. I'm a man first."

Smith gave the Hawks their first lead of the game when he nailed a jumper that made it 64-63 with 1:45 remaining. Deng answered with a jumper and hit two free throws after Horford scored to make it 67-66.

Pachulia then hit an 11-footer with 9.8 seconds left before Gibson drove upcourt and fed Ronnie Brewer to give Chicago a 69-68 lead going into the fourth. Then, after a layup by Teague, Rose went off. So did Gibson, and the Bulls prevailed.

"The series is not over with," Smith said. "We have to go and play with a ton of energy on Thursday. We have to do a better job of keeping Derrick Rose out of our paint. If we do that we should be coming back here to play a Game 7."

the foul was "terrible" and "unacceptable."

Bynum said his actions "don't represent me, my upbringing, this franchise or any of the Laker fans out there that want to watch us and want us to succeed," Bynum said. "I want to actually apologize to J.J. Barea for doing that. I'm just glad that he wasn't seriously injured in

Lakers' Bynum suspended 5 games for Barea foul

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. (AP)—Lakers center Andrew Bynum has been suspended for five games next season for his flagrant foul on Dallas guard J.J. Barea in Los Angeles' final playoff game.

The NBA announced the suspension Tuesday, two days after Bynum was ejected for the foul late in the two-time defending

champions' 36-point loss to the Mavericks in Game 4. The league also fined Bynum \$25,000 for ripping off his jersey while heading to the locker room, which means the suspension will cost Bynum more than \$700,000.

Bynum expressed contrition for the episode after his exit interview at the Lakers' training complex earlier Tuesday, saying

Indians win 14th straight at home, 5-4 over Rays



CLEVELAND
(AP)—Michael Brantley drew a bases-loaded walk

with one out in the ninth inning to force in the winning run and give the Cleveland Indians their 14th straight win at home, 5-4 over the Tampa Bay Rays on Tuesday night.

The victory continued the Indians' recent run of late-inning magic at Progressive Field. They have won their last four at home in their final at-bat. Cleveland loaded the bases against Joel Peralta (1-2) before Kyle Farnsworth came on and issued his first walk in 16 outings this season.

Brantley and Grady Sizemore homered for the Indians, who are 14-2 at home for the first time since becoming an AL charter member in 1901.

Chris Perez (3-1) pitched a scoreless ninth for the win. Matt Joyce and Evan Longoria homered for the Rays, who came in with baseball's best road record but had their winning streak stopped at four.

Blue Jays 7, Red Sox 6, 10 innings

At Toronto, David Cooper hit his first major league homer and drove in the winning run with a sacrifice fly in the 10th inning as Toronto beat Boston.

Jose Bautista hit his 11th home run of the season and rookie J.P. Arencibia also went deep for Toronto.

Adrian Gonzalez homered twice for the Red Sox, the 11th multihomer game of his career, and David Ortiz added a solo shot.

Rajai Davis hit a one-out single off Matt Albers (0-1) in the 10th and stole second on a pitchout, sliding in just ahead of the tag. Davis stole third on the very next pitch, and the Red Sox brought their infield in. Cooper won it with a fly to center.

Orioles 7, Mariners 6, 13 innings

At Baltimore, Matt Wieters singled home the winning run with two outs in the 13th inning, part of a stunning comeback that gave Baltimore a victory over Seattle.

After the Mariners got the go-ahead run in the top of the 13th, the Orioles scored twice in the bottom half against Brandon League (0-2), who blew his first save opportunity in 10 chances this season.

J.J. Hardy homered and had four hits for Baltimore in his first game back from the disabled list. The Orioles, who bounced back from a 4-3 deficit in the eighth, snapped a four-game losing streak and improved to 1-17 when trailing after seven innings.

Adam Kennedy homered for the Mariners, who took the lead in the 13th on Mike Wilson's first major league hit.

Yankees 3, Royals 1

At New York, Freddy Garcia pitched effectively into the seventh inning, and Alex Rodriguez and Derek Jeter provided the offense as New York's bullpen made it stand up in a victory over Kansas City.

Brett Gardner tripled and scored twice as the Yankees won for the eighth time in 10 games at home against the Royals. Kansas City has a major league-best 15 wins at Kauffman Stadium but dropped to just 3-9 on the road this season.

Garcia (2-2) gave up six hits and a pair of walks in six-plus innings to win for only the second time in nine decisions against the Royals. He out-pitched Kyle Davies (1-5), who allowed three runs in five-plus innings for Kansas City.

Former Yankees outfielder Melky Cabrera provided the Royals with their only run, a solo homer to center field in the fourth inning that briefly tied the game.

Jeter had two more hits after his four-hit, two-homer game Sunday at Texas. He drove in the Yankees' first run with a crisp single in the third inning.

Angels 6, White Sox 2

At Anaheim, California, Alberto Callaspo drove in three runs and Maicer Izturis homered for Los Angeles in a victory over Chicago.

Joel Pineiro (2-0) allowed two runs and eight hits over 7 2-3 innings in his third start. The right-hander, whose season was delayed because of a sore shoulder, struck five and walked one in his home debut. Fernando Rodney got the final out of the eighth inning and Scott Downs finished up with a perfect ninth.

Rangers 7, Athletics 2

At Arlington, Texas, Colby Lewis pitched neatly into the eighth inning as Texas got a two-run homer from slumping Adrian Beltre in a rain-delayed victory over Oakland.

Lewis (3-4) allowed one run and five hits over 7 1-3 innings. He walked one and failed to register a strikeout for the Rangers, who had lost seven of nine and 11 of 15.

The right-hander got 16 outs on balls hit in the air and threw a season-high 115 pitches.

Tigers 10, Twins 2

At Minneapolis, Victor Martinez had three hits and four RBIs to push Detroit past Francisco Liriano and Minnesota in a rain-delayed victory.

Jhonny Peralta's two-run homer in the second inning ended Liriano's bid for back-to-back no-hitters, and the left-hander's outing was over after three innings due to an illness. Liriano fell to 2-5.

Brennan Boesch drove in two runs for the Tigers, who have won four straight and seven of eight overall. Rick Porcello (3-2) pitched five crisp innings, allowing one run and three hits.

Rene Tosoni hit his first career homer, but the stumbling Twins managed only five hits and dropped their majors-worst record to 12-22.

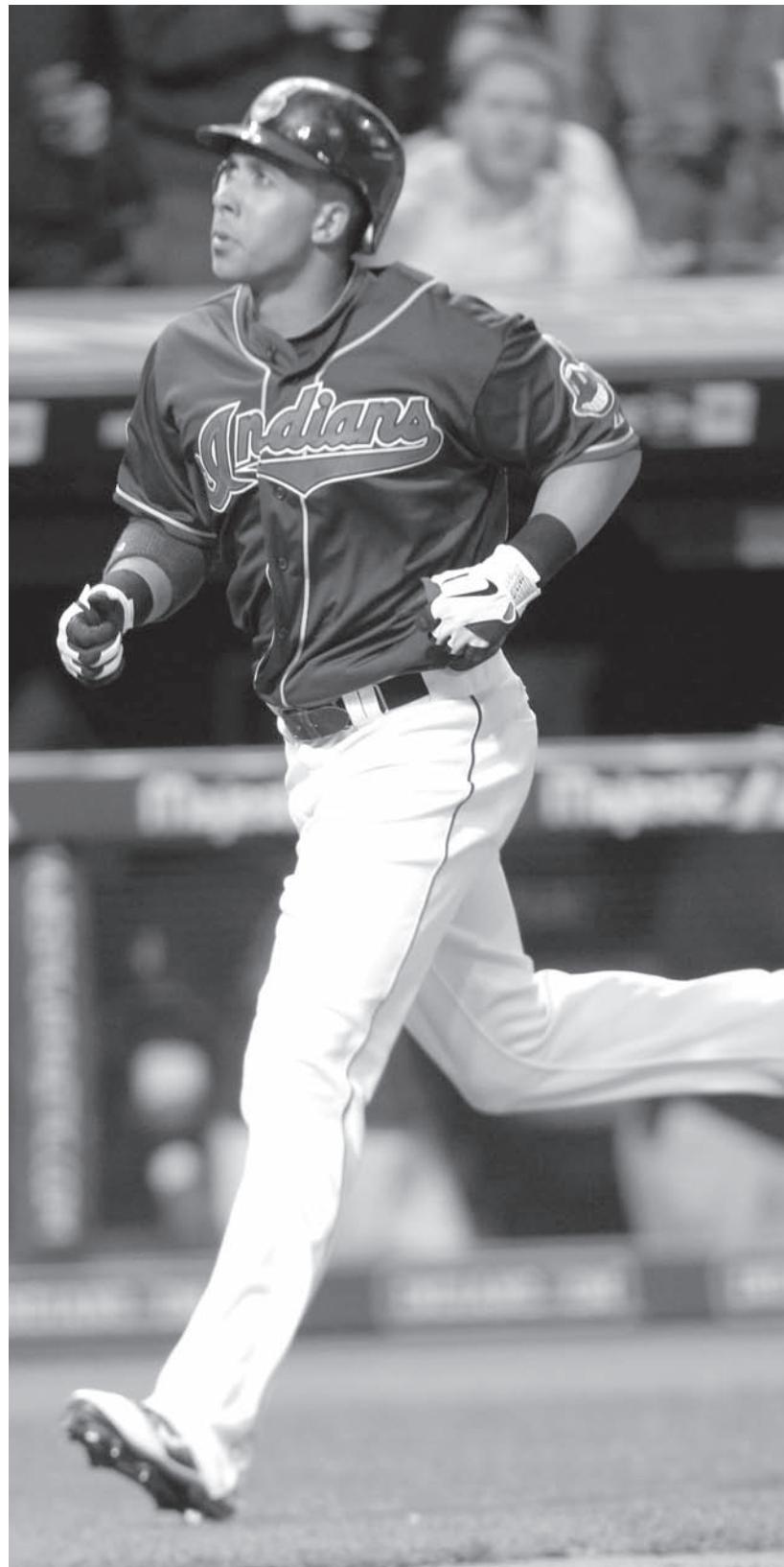
Marlins 2, Phillies 1

At Miami, Josh Johnson scored the Florida Marlins' first run and they squeezed out another in the eighth inning to beat Roy Halladay and the Philadelphia Phillies.

Johnson didn't get the win, but he kept his team in the game against the reigning National League Cy Young pitching award winner, pitching seven innings and allowing only one run—on Ryan Howard's eighth homer leading off the second.

Chris Coghlan's single in the eighth drove home the tiebreaking run, which was unearned following an error by shortstop Jimmy Rollins.

Halladay (5-2) gave up only five hits



Cleveland Indians' Michael Brantley runs the bases after hitting a solo home run off Tampa Bay Rays' Andy Sonnanstine in the fourth inning in a baseball game, Tuesday, May 10, 2011, in Cleveland.

in eight innings, but fell to 1-3 in his four matchups against Johnson. The loss ended Halladay's streak of wins in 13 consecutive starts against NL East teams since July 5, 2010.

Nationals 7, Braves 6

At Atlanta, Jason Marquis earned his 100th career win, backed by a pair of three-run homers from Laynce Nix and Jayson Werth, as Washington held off Atlanta.

The Braves scored five runs in the eighth to nearly wipe out a 7-1 deficit, capped by Dan Uggla's three-run homer. But Drew Storen got the final three out for his eighth save in eight chances.

Atlanta's Tim Hudson (4-3) lasted only five innings, his shortest stint of the season, after tossing a one-hit shutout against Milwaukee in his previous start.

Marquis (4-1) pitched into the eighth, giving up seven hits and three runs to improve his career mark to 100-93. The 32-year-old beat his original team, picking up his first 14 wins with the Braves from 2000-03.

Nix homered in the fourth to give

the Nationals a 4-0 lead. Werth, off to a slow start after signing a \$126 million contract over the winter, put it out of reach with another three-run shot in the fifth.

Giants 1, Diamondbacks 0

At San Francisco, Cody Ross hit a game-ending RBI single in the ninth inning and Tim Lincecum pitched another gem as San Francisco beat Arizona for its fourth straight victory.

Ross' line-drive single down the third base line off David Hernandez (2-1), scoring pinch-runner Darren Ford from second and sending the Giants pouring out of the dugout in celebration for their third last at-bat win in four games.

Lincecum struck out nine and took a no-hitter into the sixth in another dominating start for the two-time NL Cy Young winner.

Mets 4, Rockies 3

At Denver, Mike Pelfrey hit a tiebreaking, two-run double and limited the Rockies to three solo homers, helping New York over Colorado.

The Mets had lost all five of their games to the Rockies this season but finally put together a couple of rallies against their new nemesis to counter home runs by Troy Tulowitzki, Seth Smith and Carlos Gonzalez.

Despite the trio of long balls he served up, Pelfrey (3-3) allowed six hits over 6 2-3 innings and improved to 6-2 lifetime against the Rockies, who have lost seven of nine but remain atop the NL West. Pelfrey's outing was cut short by a nearly hour-long rain delay in the seventh inning.

Cardinals 6, Cubs 4

At Chicago, Daniel Descalso hit a two-out, bases-loaded single in the eighth off Kerry Wood and Albert Pujols had four hits to help Chris Carpenter get his first win of the season as St. Louis beat Chicago.

St. Louis pulled out the victory without manager Tony La Russa, who was undergoing tests at the Mayo Clinic in Arizona. General manager John Mozeliak said the veteran manager had been diagnosed with shingles and wasn't sure when he'd be back. Bench coach Joe Pettini ran the team.

Carpenter (1-2) allowed four runs and 13 singles over seven innings to get his first win since last Sept. 30.

Reds 7, Astros 3

At Houston, Homer Bailey allowed five hits over seven scoreless innings, Jay Bruce had a two-run homer and Joey Votto drove in three runs as Cincinnati beat Houston.

Bailey (2-0), who made his 2011 debut last week against the Astros, struck out five with no walks to get his second win of the year.

Votto had doubles in both the first and second innings to drive in his runs and Bruce connected on his homer off Houston starter Brett Myers in the first inning.

Brewers 8, Padres 6

At Milwaukee, Jonathan Lucroy equaled career highs with three hits and three RBIs and Shaun Marcum won his fourth straight decision, lifting Milwaukee over San Diego.

Milwaukee built an 8-0 lead off Padres starter Clayton Richard (1-4) as every Brewers starter had at least one hit for the night before having to hold on late.

Lucroy provided two of the biggest blows with a two-run single in the second and an RBI double in the fourth. He also singled in the eighth after fouling a ball into the dirt that ricocheted and hit him in the jaw.

Dodgers 10, Pirates 3

At Pittsburgh, Matt Kemp hit a three-run homer as Los Angeles broke out of a lengthy hitting slump in a win over Pittsburgh.

The Dodgers posted a season-high 15 hits, including three each by Jamey Carroll and Aaron Miles. Ted Lilly (3-3) had little trouble over six innings as Los Angeles won for just the second time in seven games.

Andrew McCutchen hit two home runs for the Pirates, who were hoping to give themselves some breathing room after making a rare move above .500 on Monday. Instead, they dropped to 18-18 when newfound ace Kevin Correia (5-3) ran into trouble in the sixth.

Close win for MP United female strikers

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



The veteran players of MP United Football

Club outclassed the young guns of Shirley's Football Club, 4-3, during the continuation of the regular season of the 2011 NMI-FA Women's 11 Aside League last Saturday at the CPA Field.

MP United drew two goals from long-time striker and CNMI Women's National Team member Natalie Hill, while Melody Matson hit a penalty shot and Julie Hall also scored in the first half for the squad's 4-2 halftime lead.

Jeraldine Castillo scored the twin goals for Shirley's in the first half, and the team failed to steal the win in the second half when only Marielle Gariguez lit up the scoreboard. Shir-

ley's FC is composed mostly of Marianas High School students, who just started playing soccer a few years ago.

In the other game on Saturday, Tan Holdings FC and Independents FC engaged in a 1-1 draw with both teams finding the back of the net only in the first half.

Eileen Gail Echaluse made the lone goal for Tan Holdings in the 25th minute and failed to keep her team in the lead

when Samantha Birmingham-Babauta scored for IFC eight minutes later.

In last Friday's match, Paire Football Club walked away with a 3-0 triumph over Matansa Football Club.

Patricia Coleman, Roxie Lamar, and Priscilla Norman scored one goal each for Paire. Coleman broke the ice in the first half for Paire's 2-0 lead, while Norman and Lamar hit their goals in the second half.

DFS tennis tourney starts next week

Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association will be having its first ranking tournament for the 2011-2012 season via next week's 30th Annual DFS Tennis Championships.

The two-weekend competition will begin on May 21 until May 22 for Week 1 events, while Week 2 of the championship will run from May 28 to 30. Games will be played both

at the Pacific Islands Club hard courts and at the American Memorial Park tennis courts. Only the junior competition will be featured in the DFS tournament, but NMITA is expected to resume action in adults division for next year's event.

Regular ranking points will be at stake in the DFS tournament with 1,000 awarded to first place, 750 to second, 500 to semifinalists, and so on. Ranking points are important to de-

termine the CNMI representatives to the annual North Pacific Qualifying Tournament.

Players who are 12 years old are encouraged to join the U15 division to begin their bids for ranking points for the NPQ selection.

Besides the two age groups, the DFS tournament will also have games in the boys and girls U10 and U18, and U10 co-ed mini tennis. The doubles competition will have only two age

groups—boys and girls U12 and U18. Entrance fee for singles play is \$20 and \$10 each per player in doubles. Mini tennis entrance fee is only \$10. Deadline for registration in all events is this Saturday, while draws will take place on Sunday.

In last year's DFS tournament, Mikayla Lopez and Chris Park won the U14 titles, Christian Miller and Thea Minor prevailed in the U18 division, Quintin Ramsey and Carol Lee topped the U12, and Alex Choi ruled the mini tennis. (Roselyn B. Monroyo)

OL'ACES

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but were forced 1-2-3 in the fourth, fifth, and sixth innings by the lights out performance of Nakamura.

Ol' Aces tucked in two more runs in the sixth inning off an error and a wild pitch.

Guerrero sat down his first man to start the bottom of the sixth, but then gave up a walk and a base hit to Ol' Aces that led to him being replaced by Juan Maratita. Surprisingly, Maratita botched a play in his direction against his first batter.

Maratita gained his grip, but not before a second run came home off a wild pitch.

Meanwhile, after going three up and three down for a third time in a row, IT&E left a man at second in its final stand.

Nakamura finished with a three-hit complete game shutout with a pair of walks and

six strikeouts. He also batted 2-for-4 and registered the game's only RBI.

Aughenbaugh, meanwhile, batted 2-for-3 with a run and a base on balls and Mike Manas swung 2-for-3 with a run.

IT&E's K.J. Villagomez, for his part, swung 1-for-2 with a walk and a stolen base, but was left stranded in scoring position twice after making it to first three times.

SENIOR LEAGUE

Fielders 11, Hunters 4

The playoffs in the Senior League also continued Tuesday with Tan Holdings Fielders downing St. Michael's Hunters, 11-4.

Fielders broke the ice in the bottom of the second off an RBI single by Ricardo Villagomez, but Hunters' Clayton Aguon reached and scored off errors to get it back in the top of the third.

Fielders answered in the bottom frame and pulled

ahead, 5-1.

Peter Lieto led off with a triple and scored off a sacrifice fly by Carl Camacho.

A hit later, Patrick Tenorio squeezed home Poland Masa-haru who reached earlier off a base on balls.

After another walk, James Aldan cracked a fielder's choice that brought two runs to the plate.

Later in the top of the fourth, Fielders' Camacho came to the mound in relief for Tenorio to close out the third.

The Hunters then called Joe Atalig to the mound in relief for Aguon in the bottom frame.

Still, the Fielders went ahead, 8-1, off a pair of lead off walks that scored off Lieto's second triple of the game; he also scored off a wild pitch.

Hunters managed three runs to start the fifth off an error and RBI singles by Ian Lizama and Thomas Reyes.

Later in the game Tommy

Reyes came to the mound in relief for Atalig to start the bottom frame; he walked his first man, who scored later off an error, while Fielders' Jared Lizama also reached and scored off errors that made it, 10-4, Fielders.

Hunters stranded two runners to start the sixth and Fielders' Camacho drove in an insurance run in the bottom of the frame.

Camacho then contained the Hunters to just a run in their final stand to secure the save.

Winning pitcher Tenorio gave up one unearned run in three and two thirds innings off just three walks and a bean ball with six strikeouts. Lieto batted 2-for-3 with two RBIs, three runs, a stolen base, and a hit-by-pitch.

The Fielders will play the winner of tonight's 6pm clash between the Tan Siu Lin-Rep. Fred DLGuerreo-Rep. Ramon S. Basa Kagman Lions and the CTS Ol' Aces.

MBA

From Page 28

opening canto, 57-all. Then MBA finally tasted the lead, 59-57, when Agape committed an inbounding error and Gordon Coelho picked up the loose ball and connected on a bank shot.

Agape knotted the score again off Jian Jun Wang's unorthodox free throw shots.

Wang shot the charities underhanded and made both shots to force a 59-all deadlock with 23 seconds left in regulation.

Then in MBA's next possession, Alex Park muffed an opportunity to grab the lead back when he missed two charities.

After the second miss, Agape went up for a fastbreak play, but Dai Lixing lost possession. Fortunately for Agape, MBA's Paul Samson inadvertently kicked the leather out.

Rules prohibit a member from winning two monthly crowns.

With Matsumoto disqualified from claiming the May Ace plum, runner-up Malaran was next in line. The 22-handicapper Malaran fired a gross 92 for a net 70.

Ernie Lopez was one stroke off Malaran's score to notch third place. The 29-handicapper

Agape regained possession with only five seconds left, but faltered on its two attempts. First, Li Wei Liang missed a turnaround jumper and then Xing Cong Cong putback was too strong as time expired.

In overtime, MBA had a quick 6-0 run to seize control of the game and never looked back.

Quan, made five of MBA's last 10 points in the fourth canto, had six markers in overtime

and finished with a game-high 24 points, while after missing two crucial charities in regulation, Park went 3-for-4.

MBA 77 – Quan 24, Coelho 22, G. Park 14, Samson 8, Poon 6, Lee 3.

ACS 65 – Liang 28, Lixing 16, Puno 11, Wang 4, Xing 4, Yang 2.

Scoring by quarters: 10-18, 30-17, 38-44, 59-59, 77-65 (OT).

KAUTZ

From Page 28

Dennis Sebastian (78).

In Division B, John Matsumoto topped the field of eight players with his group's best net score of 67. However, Matsumoto had already won the March Ace title and Fil-Taga

logged a gross 100 on the tough east course. Other Division B players who joined the weekend tournaments with their net scores in parenthesis were Mike Cruz (71), Dan Ganacias (72), Henry Cruz (76), Raffy Piamonte (79), and Nestor Siruelo (89).

Meanwhile, Fil-Taga will have its 2011 PH Independence Day Open Golf Classic at Coral

Ocean Point on June 12.

Entrance fee is only \$85 and the tournament will have a double-peoria format. Show time is at 10:30am, while tee off is at 11:30am.

For more information, contact Mike Cruz at 483-7171, Malaran at 287-1227, Batallones at 898-3367, and Larry Pascual at 287-1233.

SUFA softball meeting today



The SUFA Softball Association has scheduled a 6pm coaches and team representatives

meeting today at the pavilion behind Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium for teams interested in participating in its softball tournament this Saturday and Sunday at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

There is a \$100 entrance per team and the first 10 teams to pay in full will be allotted spots.

The tourney will follow a

double-elimination format with one modified co-ed rule. At least two female players must be on the field—and in the lineup—at all times.

Prizes are up for grabs but have not been determined yet.

Proceeds of this weekend's tourney will go toward Team SUFA's trip to Portland, Oregon to compete in the 2011 Labor Day Softball Tournament.

For more information, contact Jovie Flores at 287-5515. (Walter Cepeda-Sutherland)

CWGA May Ace set this Saturday



The CNMI Women's Golfers Association will hold its May

Ace of Month Tournament this Saturday, May 14, at the west course of the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

Showtime is set for 11:30am with a 12:30pm tee off.

In addition, CWGA will be electing officers in its general assembly meeting that takes place in conjunction with the

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

| NBA LEADERS | | | | | MLB STANDINGS | | | | | |
|---------------------|----|----|-----|-----|------------------|-----------|-----|-----|------|-------|
| AMERICAN CONFERENCE | | | | | CENTRAL DIVISION | | | | | |
| East Division | | | | | West Division | | | | | |
| G | FG | FT | PTS | Avg | W | L | Pct | GB | | |
| Durant, OKC | 8 | 78 | 64 | 243 | 30.4 | New York | 20 | .13 | .606 | – |
| Rose, CHI | 9 | 88 | 73 | 265 | 29.4 | Tampa Bay | 20 | .15 | .571 | 1 |
| Howard, ORL | 6 | 51 | 60 | 162 | 27.0 | Boston | 17 | .19 | .472 | 4 1/2 |
| Nowitzki, DAL | 10 | 91 | 71 | 265 | 26.5 | Toronto | 16 | .20 | .444 | 5 1/2 |
| Anthony, NYK | 4 | 33 | 29 | 104 | 26.0 | Baltimore | 15 | .19 | .441 | 5 1/2 |
| Wade, MIA | 8 | 69 | 56 | 200 | 25.0 | | | | | |
| Westbrook, OKC | 8 | 65 | 55 | 195 | 24.4 | | | | | |
| James, MIA | 8 | 66 | 54 | 193 | 24.1 | | | | | |
| Bryant, LAL | 10 | 83 | 50 | 228 | 22.8 | | | | | |
| Randolph, MEM | 9 | 70 | 57 | 199 | 22.1 | | | | | |
| Paul, NOR | 6 | 42 | 39 | 132 | 22.0 | | | | | |
| Granger, IND | 5 | 43 | 14 | 108 | 21.6 | | | | | |
| Pierce, BOS | 7 | 53 | 23 | 148 | 21.1 | | | | | |
| Aldridge, POR | 6 | 53 | 19 | 125 | 20.8 | | | | | |
| Ginobili, SAN | 5 | 31 | 32 | 103 | 20.6 | | | | | |
| Parker, SAN | 6 | 43 | 31 | 118 | 19.7 | | | | | |
| Allen, BOS | 7 | 46 | 18 | 135 | 19 | | | | | |

2011 PSS/McDonald's All Schools Athletic Championships

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO





Rose leads
Bulls past
Hawks,
95-83

24

28 THURSDAY, MAY 12, 2011

Saipan Tribune Sports

Indians win
14th straight
at home, 5-4
over Rays



25

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Ol'Aces beat Fielders, advance to finals »Top seeds in Big League relegated to consolation match

Docomo-Ol'Aces pitcher Harry Nakamura, seen here in a file photo, recorded a three-hit complete game shutout against IT&E Fielders in their Big League semis game Tuesday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND



By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

ace pitcher Harry Nakamura limited the IT&E Fielders to three hits to help third seed Docomo-Ol'Aces to a stunning 3-0 shutout victory against the Big League No. 2 seed Tuesday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.



Ol'Aces will now face fourth-ranked Island Apparel-Kagman Mobil Station Hustlers for the Big League championship set at noon this Saturday at Tan Ko Field.

The title game will be preceded by the 9am consolation match between IT&E and the Natibu Northern Stars.

The semis match was a pitching duel right from the get-go as Nakamura and his counterpart from IT&E, Nathan Guerrero, caused both teams' batters to struggle at the plate during the first half of the game.

Then finally after leaving six runners on base in the first four innings, Ol'Aces drew first blood with two outs in the fifth when Nakamura—of all people—doubled home Eli Augenbaugh.

IT&E left a runner stranded in each of the first three frames,

See OL'ACES on Page 26

MBA eliminates Agape in varsity caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Marianas Baptist Academy ousted Agape Christian School after pulling off a 77-65 overtime win during their playoff game in the boys varsity division of the 2010-2011 Coalition of Private Schools Sports Association Basketball League yesterday at the MBA Basketball Court in Dandan.

The MBA Stormz outgunned the ACS Torch-bearers in the extra five minutes, 18-6, to advance to the semifinals against top-seeded Grace Christian Academy. The MBA-GCA semis tiff will be played today at the Eagles home court in Navy Hill with the winner taking on the victor of the Mt. Carmel School-Saipan International School duel in the championship match tomorrow.

The playoff loss was a sorry one for Agape, which led by as much as 15 in the second quarter, 27-12, and still was up by double digits at the break, 30-17, before it started collapsing in the third period.

After gaining only seven points in the second canto, MBA outscored Agape in the third frame, 21-44, to move within six, 38-44. The Stormz continued its uphill climb in the fourth canto, but could not break the two-point barrier until the last minute of the final period.

Three straight points from Sid Quan tied the game for the first time since the 2-all tally in the

See MBA on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Marianas Baptist Academy's Paul Samson, right, drives against Agape Christian School's Jian Jun Wang during their playoff game in the COPSSA caging yesterday at the MBA Basketball Court in Dandan.

Entry deadline by names for Noumea set

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

 Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association has given the three local sports federations sending delegates to the 2011 Pacific Games in New Caledonia until June 15 to submit the names of their respective athletes competing in the quadrennial event.

NMASA president Michael White said during the association's meeting last week that he decided to set the deadline about two weeks earlier than the Pacific Games' closing date to have enough time to review the documents to be submitted to the organizers.

The names of the participating athletes must be registered to the Noumea organizers by June 28.

The CNMI will be sending athletes only in three sports—golf, beach volleyball, and athletics.

Golf is done with its qualifying tournaments for the Pacific Games and will have veterans Jess Wabol, Tony Satur, and Jeff

Taylor, and Adam Hardwicke on the CNMI Team.

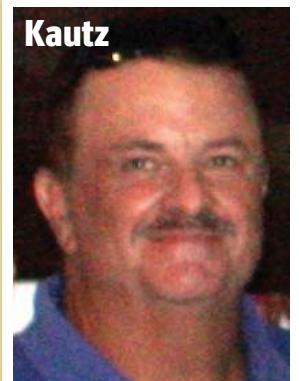
Northern Marianas Volleyball Association had also completed its series of qualifiers with the tandems of Tyce Mister and Chris Nelson and Amanda Clarkson and Melody Matson coming out on top of the field. NMVA has yet to officially announce the members of the CNMI men's and women's squads, but former Pacific Games participant Russ Quinn is one of the coaches training these players.

Northern Marianas Athletics developmental coach Elias Rangamar said they have yet to decide who will represent the association in the Pacific Games.

He added they will wait for the results of the CNMI National Championships later this month and feedback from off-island athletes before making the selection.

NMA is likely to send two athletes to New Caledonia. This year's Pacific Games will run from Aug. 27 to Sept. 10 with over 3,000 athletes from 22 nations competing in the 15-day event that will feature 27 sports.

Kautz, Malaran
take May Ace



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

 Fil-Taga Golfers Association's May Ace of the Month titles were awarded to Rick Kautz and Ted Malaran, following the completion of the monthly tournament last Saturday on the east course of the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

Kautz took the monthly honors in Division A after shooting a net 68 and winning by one stroke against Gil Faller (69). Besides carding the lowest net, Kautz also recorded the best gross score in the field with his 6-over par 78. The 10-handicapper got off to a slow start on the front nine with his 4-over par 40 and then recovered on the back with his 2-over par 38.

Faller settled for second place after his 13 handicap was deducted from his gross score of 82. He was consistent on the longer course at Laolao Bay, tallying similar scores of 41 on both nines.

Two strokes behind Kautz was 16-handicapper Lito Mendoza, who had a net 70 and gross 86 to finish third. Leo Ganacias and Larry Paschal had identical net scores of 72 to force a deadlock for fourth. Freddie Cataluna came in at fifth with his 73, followed by Matutino Adony (74), William Retardo (74), Rene Batallones (77), and

See KAUTZ on Page 26